PI-NATSU GA IPPAI
BY: YACHI EMIKO

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manga scanlations

ASUKA COMICS

Pi-NATSU GA IPPAI

YACHI EMIKO

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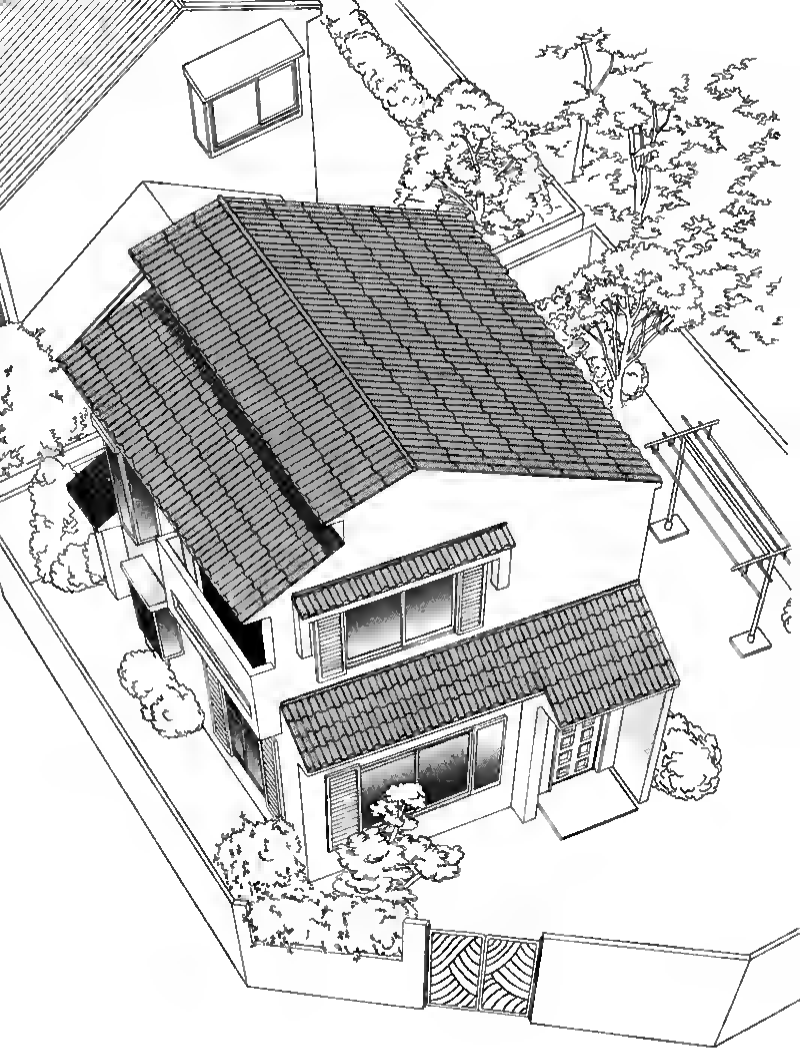
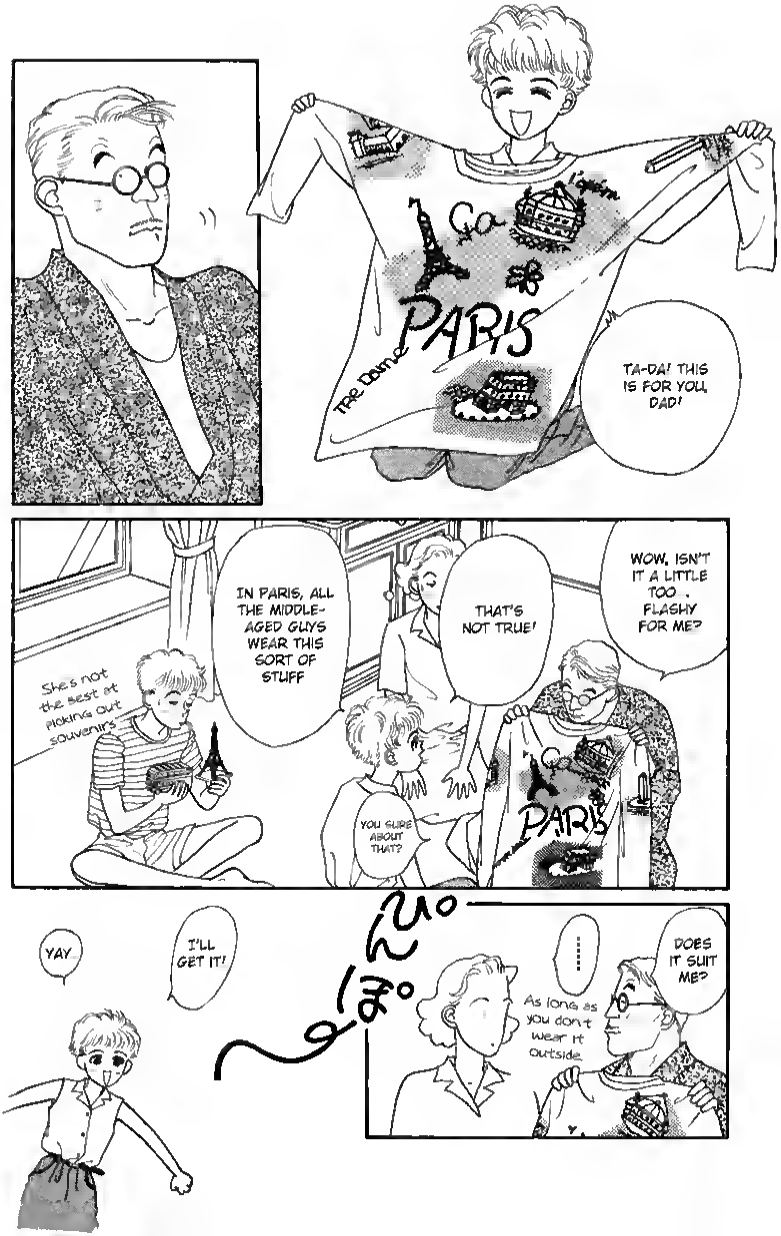
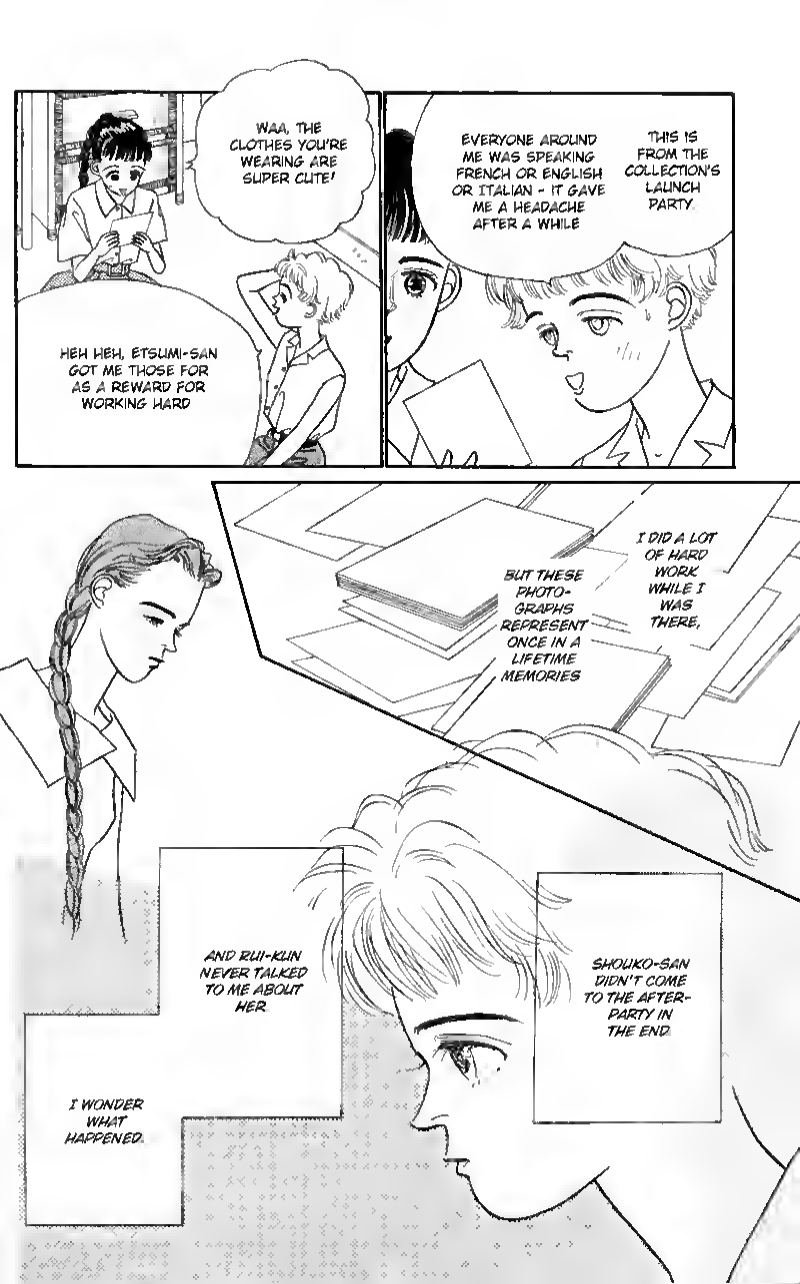
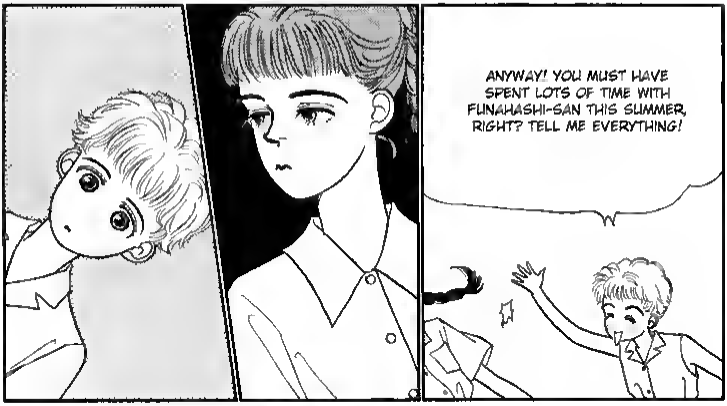



TA-DA! THIS IS FOR YOU, DAD!
PARIS
WOW, ISN'T IT A LITTLE TOO . FLASHY FOR ME?
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
IN PARIS, ALL THE MIDDLE-AGED GUYS WEAR THIS SORT OF STUFF
She's not the best at picking out souvenirs
YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
DOES IT SUIT ME?
As long as you don't wear it outside.
I'LL GET IT!
YAY

NATSUME!!
WAAAA! CHIYAKO!! HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
I GOT ON REALLY WELL WITH HIM, EVEN THOUGH HE ONLY UNDERSTOOD ENGLISH
THAT GUY IS DINA'S 'BOYFRIEND', KERRY.
Yeah, he's a really nice guy
LOOK AT THIS
IT'S A PHOTO FROM WHEN WE WERE IN LONDON

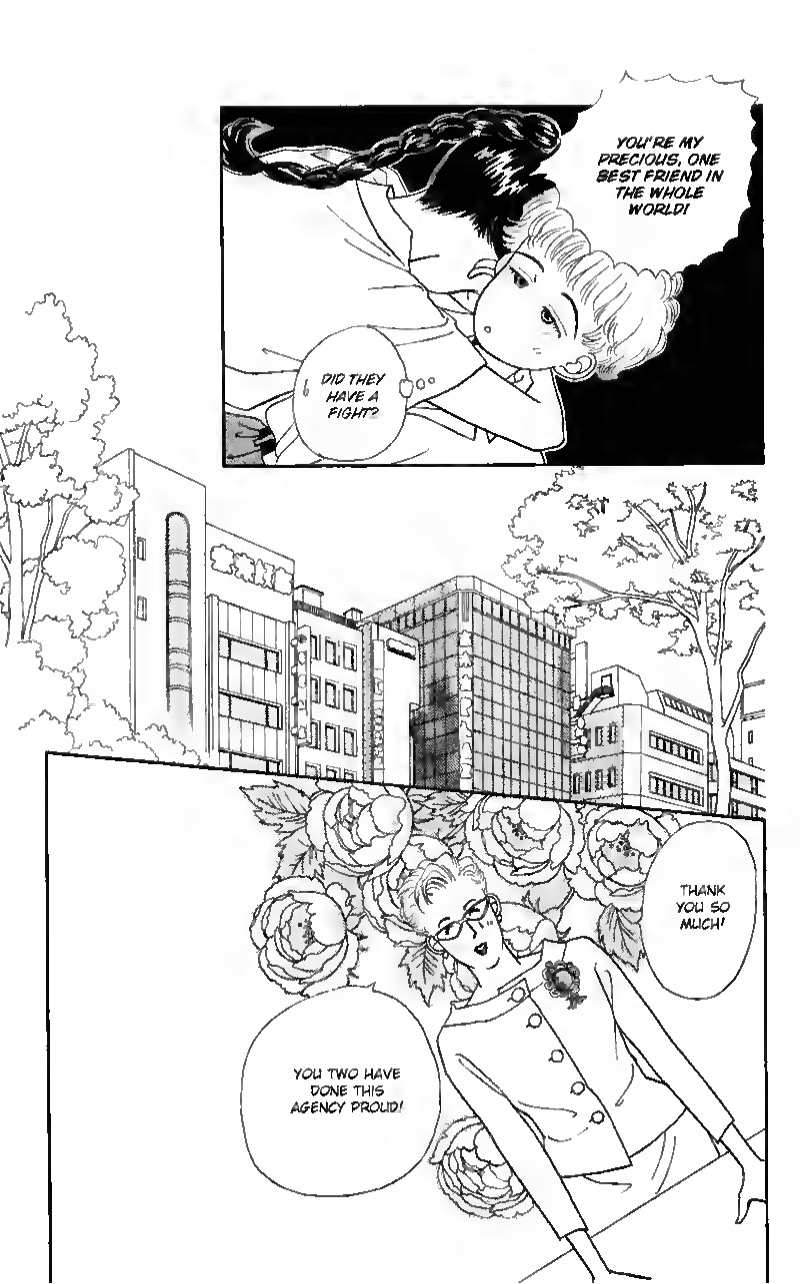

WAA, THE CLOTHES YOU'RE WEARING ARE SUPER CUTE!
HEH HEH, ETSUMI-SAN GOT ME THOSE FOR AS A REWARD FOR WORKING HARD
THIS IS FROM THE COLLECTION'S LAUNCH PARTY
EVERYONE AROUND ME WAS SPEAKING FRENCH OR ENGLISH OR ITALIAN - IT GAVE ME A HEADACHE AFTER A WHILE
I DID A LOT OF HARD WORK WHILE I WAS THERE,
BUT THESE PHOTO-GRAPHS REPRESENT ONCE IN A LIFETIME MEMORIES
SHOUKO-SAN DIDN'T COME TO THE AFTER-PARTY IN THE END.
AND RUI-KUN NEVER TALKED TO ME ABOUT HER.
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED.

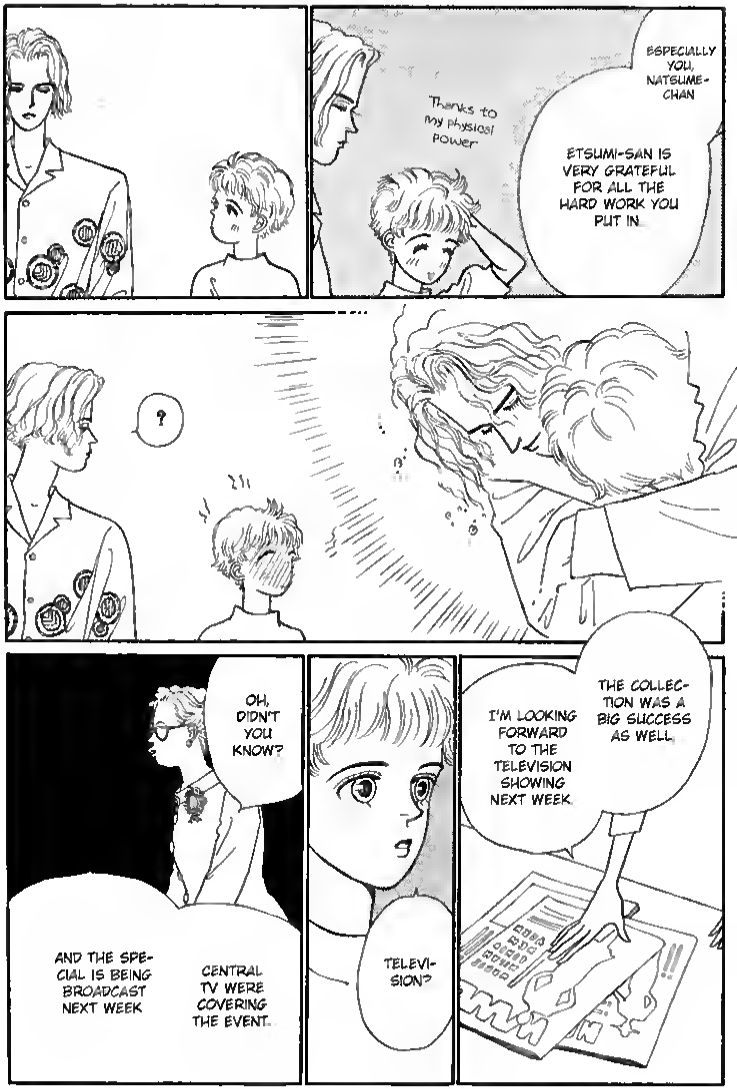
SHE SUDDENLY REMEMBERED.
I WAS WORRIED THAT YOU WERE PUSHING YOURSELF TOO HARD,
BUT IT SEEMS LIKE YOU ENJOYED YOURSELF WHILE YOU WERE AT IT


ANYWAY! YOU MUST HAVE SPENT LOTS OF TIME WITH FUNAHASHI-SAN THIS SUMMER, RIGHT? TELL ME EVERYTHING!

NATSUME!
WHAT'S WRONG?

IF I HAVE YOU, I DON'T NEED ANYONE ELSE...
YOU'RE MY NUMBER ONE AFTER ALL, NATSUME!


YOU'RE MY PRECIOUS, ONE BEST FRIEND IN THE WHOLE WORLD!
DID THEY HAVE A FIGHT?
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
YOU TWO HAVE DONE THIS AGENCY PROUD!


ESPECIALLY YOU, NATSUME-CHAN
ETSUMI-SAN IS VERY GRATEFUL FOR ALL THE HARD WORK YOU PUT IN
Thanks to my physical power
?
OH, DIDN'T YOU KNOW?
AND THE SPECIAL IS BEING BROADCAST NEXT WEEK
CENTRAL TV WERE COVERING THE EVENT.
TELEVISION?
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THE TELEVISION SHOWING NEXT WEEK
THE COLLECTION WAS A BIG SUCCESS AS WELL.

WHAT?
AND APPARENTLY, YOU'RE IN IT, NATSUME-CHAN!
IT'S SOME SORT OF DOCUMENTARY, AND THEY HAVE FOOTAGE FROM BEHIND THE SCENES, TOO
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS.
I'M GONNA BE ON TV?!
WHAT? THEY FILMED ME?!
DID YOU KNOW, RUI-KUN?
You always have a strange face, so it won't matter
What if I pulled some strange face when they were filming?
GOOD AFTER-NOON

GOOD TIMING!
AH, COME IN, COME IN!
RIGHT
THIS IS...
I ALREADY KNOW
YAMABE RUI FROM THE LA VALLI COMMERCIAL
IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.
THIS IS ONE OF OUR NEW MODELS, MAKITA MITSUO-KUN.
HE'S A THIRD YEAR IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, SO HE'S TWO YEARS YOUR JUNIOR, RUI

EHH? ME, REALLY? "CUTE"?
Did they actually say that?
Well I doubt it
AH
IN THAT CASE, ARE YOU NATSUME-SAN BY ANY CHANCE?
ONE TIME I WAS WITH SOME MODELS AT A SHOOT,
AND THEY TOLD ME ABOUT "RUI-SAN'S CUTE MANAGER"
I'M MAKITA MITSUO, NICE TO MEET YOU
NICE TO MEET YOU, TOO!

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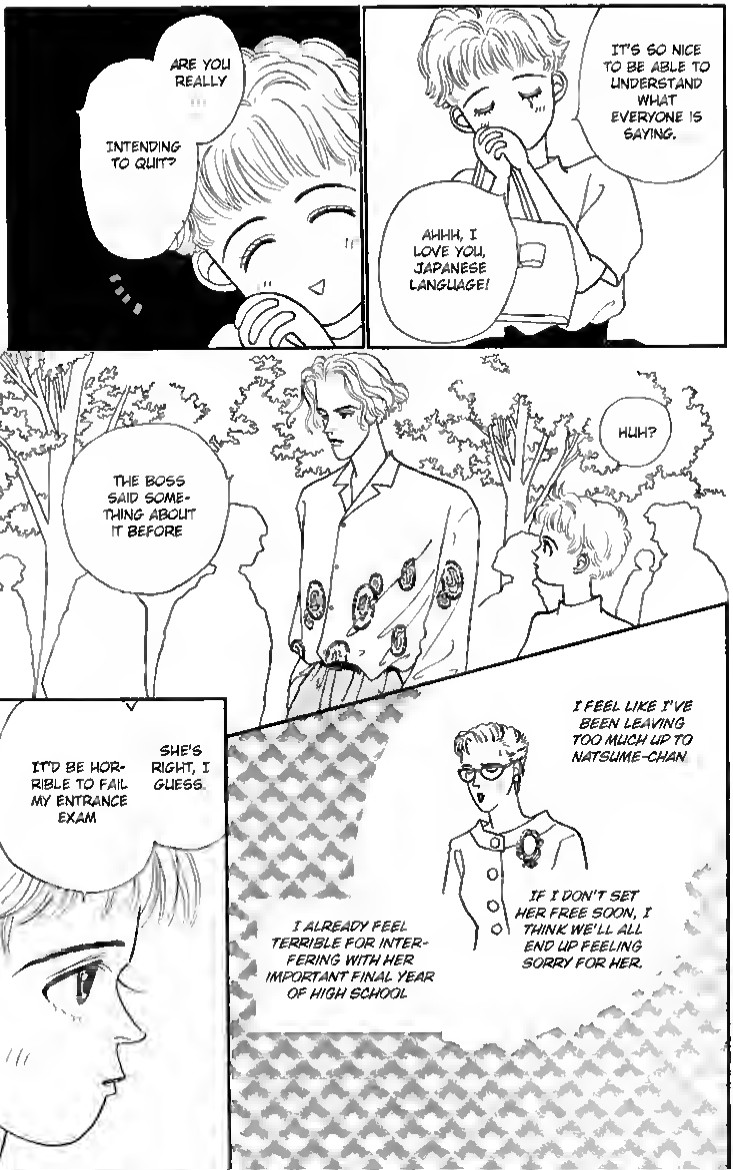
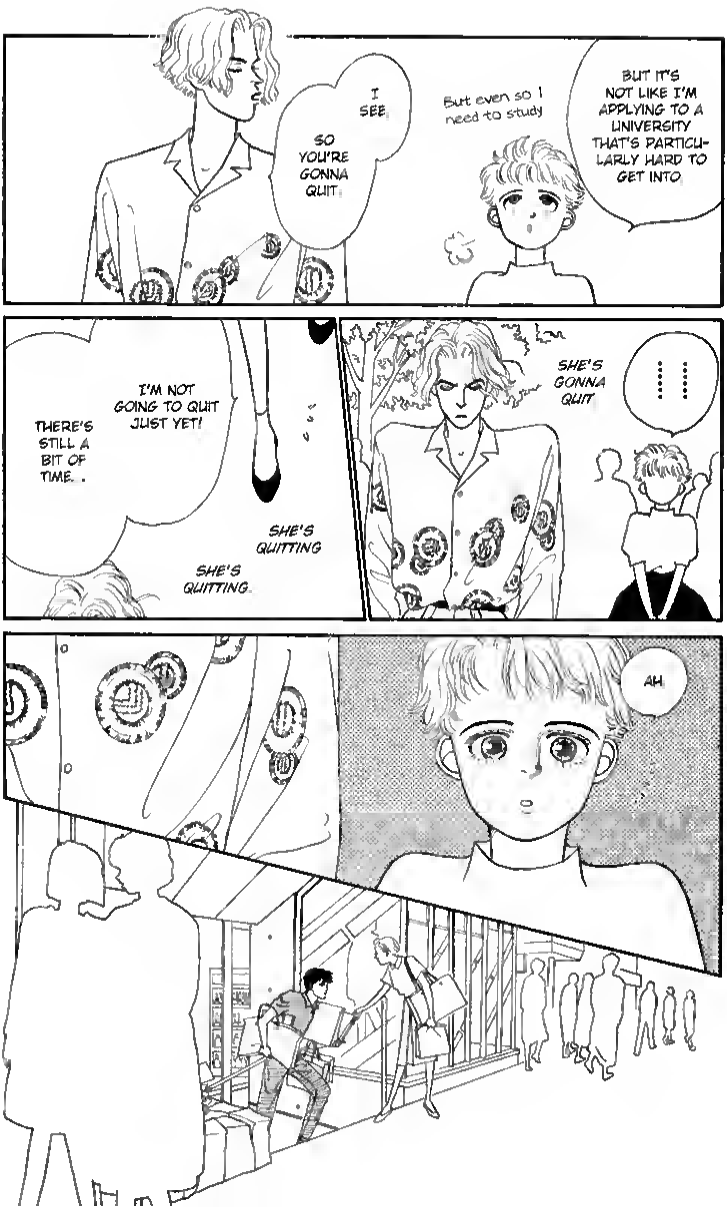
Oh, no!
Look at that! How homely!
Oh, I see!
Things like that
Yes, that's why!
It's comforting.
AHH,
WE'RE BACK IN JAPAN...

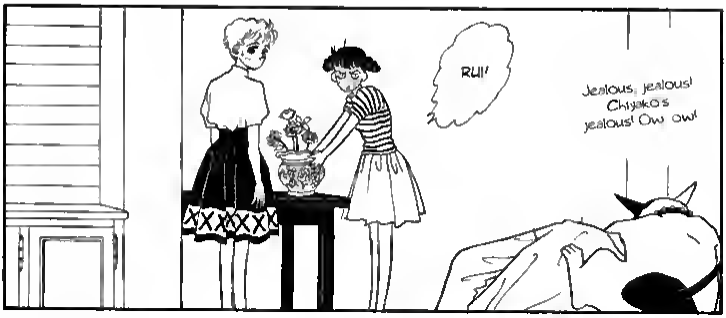

ARE YOU REALLY
INTENDING TO QUIT?
IT'S SO NICE TO BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND WHAT EVERYONE IS SAYING.
AHHH, I LOVE YOU, JAPANESE LANGUAGE!
THE BOSS SAID SOMETHING ABOUT IT BEFORE
HUH?
I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN LEAVING TOO MUCH UP TO NATSUME-CHAN
IF I DON'T SET HER FREE SOON, I THINK WE'LL ALL END UP FEELING SORRY FOR HER.
I ALREADY FEEL TERRIBLE FOR INTERFERING WITH HER IMPORTANT FINAL YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL
SHE'S RIGHT, I GUESS.
IT'D BE HORRIBLE TO FAIL MY ENTRANCE EXAM

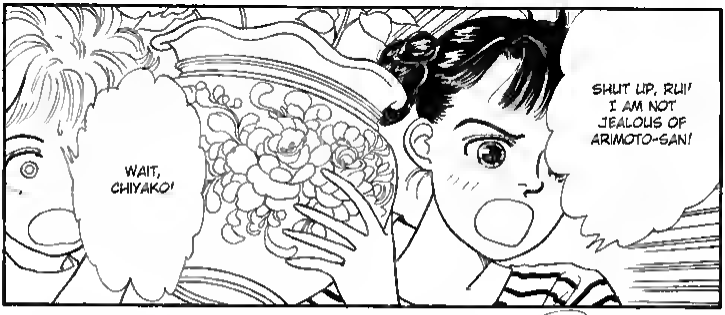

I SEE.
SO YOU'RE GONNA QUIT.
But even so I need to study
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I'M APPLYING TO A UNIVERSITY THAT'S PARTICULARLY HARD TO GET INTO.
I'M NOT GOING TO QUIT JUST YET!
THERE'S STILL A BIT OF TIME. .
SHE'S QUITTING.
SHE'S QUITTING
SHE'S GONNA QUIT
.....
AH

HEY,
THAT HUUURTS!

IT'S SOMEWHAT UNBELIEVABLE...
EVER SINCE HE GOT BACK, HE'S ALWAYS PLAYING WEIRD GAMES WITH P-HELPER. IT'S CREEPY IF YOU ASK ME.
YOU'RE SQUASHING ME, P-HELPER!
ON OUR WAY HOME, WE SAW FUNAHASHI KYOUTA.
AND HE LOOKED LIKE HE WAS ON A DATE.
I KNOW.
THEY WENT TO BUY SOME KENDO EQUIPMENT FOR THE CLUB.
IT WAS ARIMOTO-SAN. JUST ARIMOTO-SAN!
HIS FRIEND FROM UNIVERSITY.
AND IN FACT, SHE GOT TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH HIM THAN I DID.
DURING SUMMER, HE WAS PREPARING THE CLUB'S SPECIAL TRAINING CAMP WITH HER.

FUNAHASHI-SAN LOVES KENDO, AND HIS KENDO CLUB
HE SPENDS TIME WITH A LOT OF FEMALE CLUB MEMBERS
I LOVE THE FACT THAT HIS FRIENDS ARE IMPORTANT TO HIM.
I AM NOT... JEALOUS, EITHER.
YOUR FACE IS TELLING A DIFFERENT STORY...
.....
I'M PERFECTLY CONTENT WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE
AND I LIKE TO THINK OF ARIMOTO-SAN AS MY RIVAL, SINCE SHE'S SO GOOD AT KENDO
JEALOUS, JEALOUS!
AHAHAHA! SHE'S SOOO JEALOUS OF HER!


RUI!
Jealous, jealous! Chiyako's jealous! Ow ow!


SHUT UP, RUI! I AM NOT JEALOUS OF ARIMOTO-SAN!
WAIT, CHIYAKO!

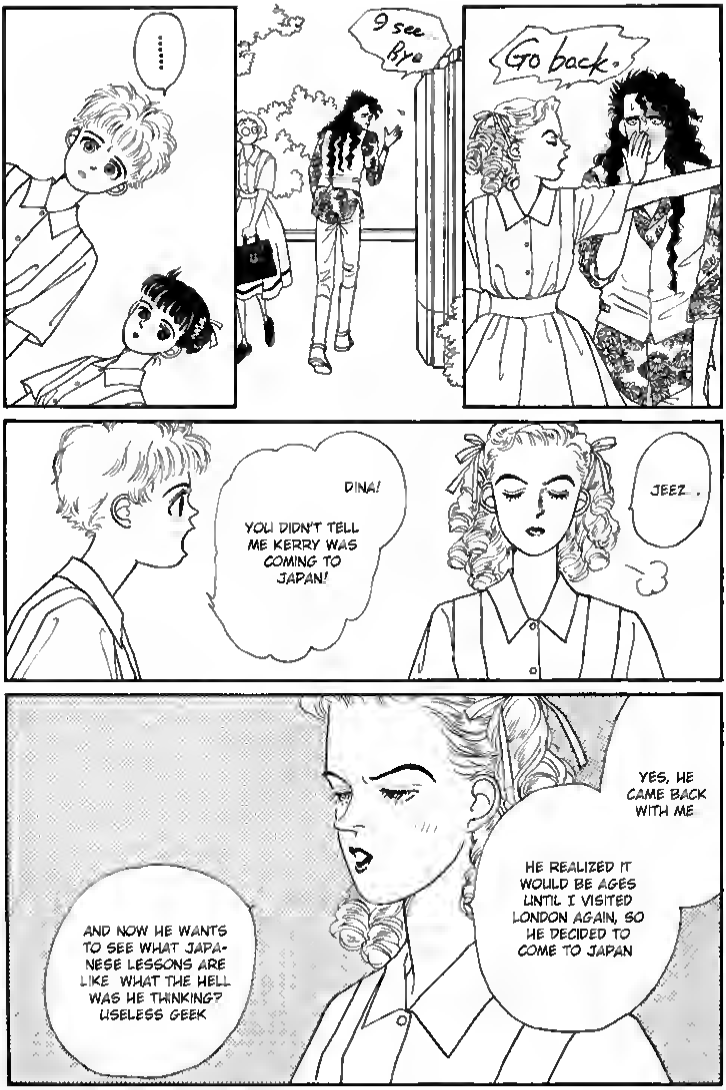
PLEASE DON'T THROW THAT, YOU'D REALLY HURT HIM!
IF YOU WERE A TRUE FRIEND, YOU WOULDN'T STOP ME!

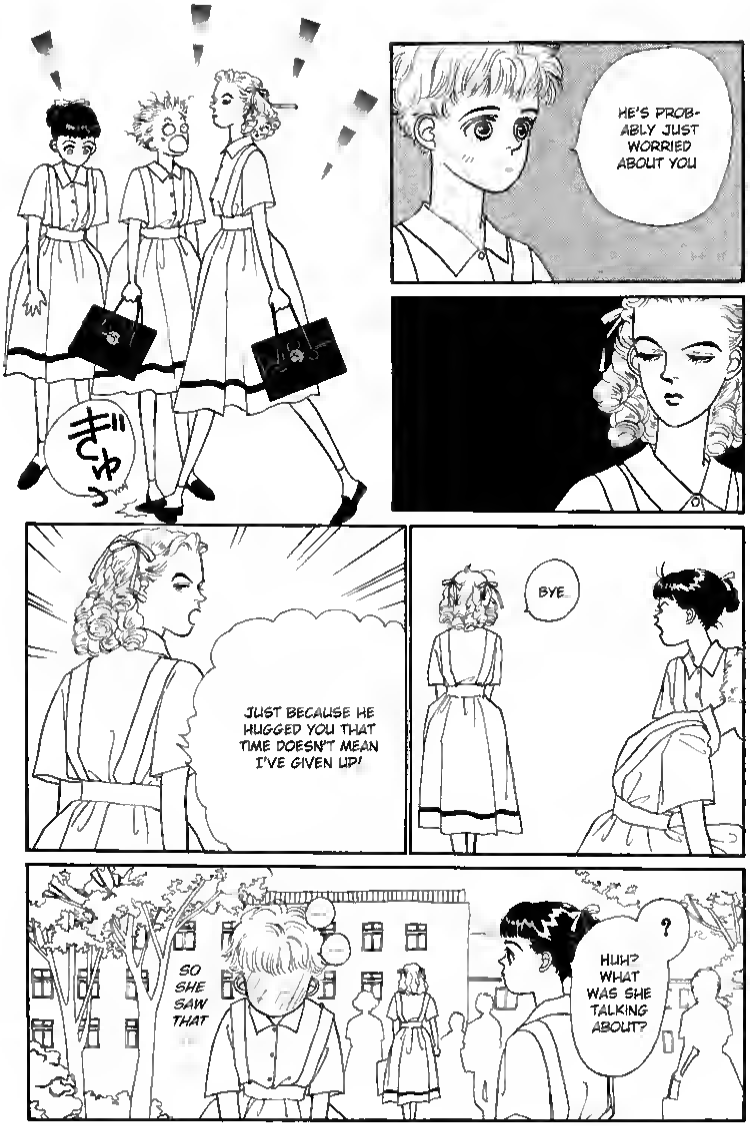
OUCH!!

How are you?
Good Morning!
It's been a while.
Not at all!
Were you busy this summer?
Damn you!
YO!
HAWAII

Good morning girls!
GOOD MORNING!
WOW, SENSEI! WHAT AN AMAZING TAN YOU HAVE!
AH, YOU NOTICED! I WENT TO HAWAII!!
JUST A LITTLE EXCURSION OF MINE, HAHAHA!
HAWAII! DID YOU?
YOU TWO HAVEN'T GOT A TAN. I TAKE IT YOU TWO STAYED AT HOME THE ENTIRE HOLIDAY. YOU SURELY DIDN'T GO ANYWHERE EXCITING, LIKE...
DEFINITELY NOT - YOUR FACES ARE SO PALE!
WELL, NATSUME WENT TO PARIS AND LONDON
IT'S NOT VERY HOT THERE, SO SHE DIDN'T TAN
YEAH...
That would be impossible.
Good morning sensei?
It did nothing but rain in Japan
Really?

SHOWING UP
THEIR TEACHER LIKE THAT
No!
Hmm...
THAT'S KERRY! WHAT IS HE DOING HERE?
WAO
NATSUME!!


.....
9 see
Bye
Go back.
DINA!
YOU DIDN'T TELL ME KERRY WAS COMING TO JAPAN!
JEEZ .
YES, HE CAME BACK WITH ME
HE REALIZED IT WOULD BE AGES UNTIL I VISITED LONDON AGAIN, SO HE DECIDED TO COME TO JAPAN
AND NOW HE WANTS TO SEE WHAT JAPANESE LESSONS ARE LIKE WHAT THE HELL WAS HE THINKING? USELESS GEEK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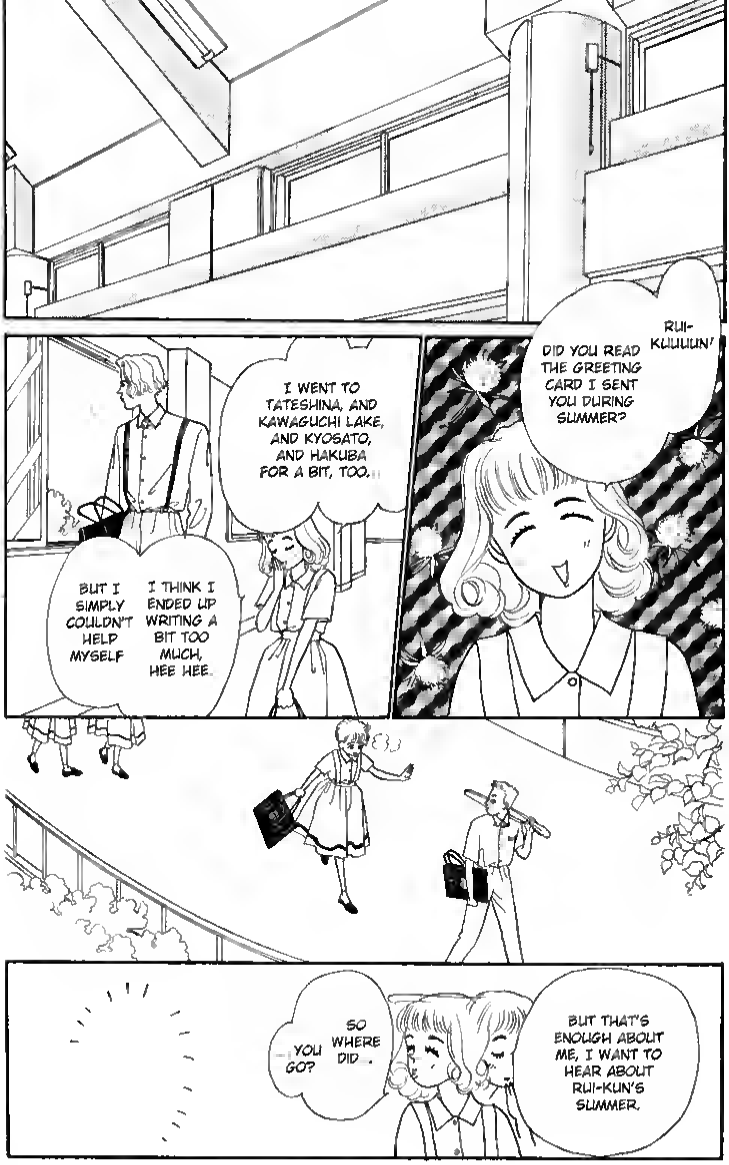
HE'S PROBABLY JUST WORRIED ABOUT YOU
JUST BECAUSE HE HUGGED YOU THAT TIME DOESN'T MEAN I'VE GIVEN UP!
BYE
SO SHE SAW THAT
HUH? WHAT WAS SHE TALKING ABOUT?
?


RUI-KUUUUN!
DID YOU READ THE GREETING CARD I SENT YOU DURING SUMMER?
I WENT TO TATESHINA, AND KAWAGUCHI LAKE, AND KYOSATO, AND HAKUBA FOR A BIT, TOO.
I THINK I ENDED UP WRITING A BIT TOO MUCH, HEE HEE.
BUT I SIMPLY COULDN'T HELP MYSELF
SO WHERE DID YOU GO?
BUT THAT'S ENOUGH ABOUT ME, I WANT TO HEAR ABOUT RUI-KUN'S SUMMER.

WELL, YOU CAME ALL THE WAY TO NARITA AIRPORT TO SEE ME OFF
IT WAS SO KIND OF YOU TO GIVE ME THAT CHARM
THANKS TO THAT, I WAS ABLE TO RETURN SAFELY!
WOW, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THIS, YOU KNOW!
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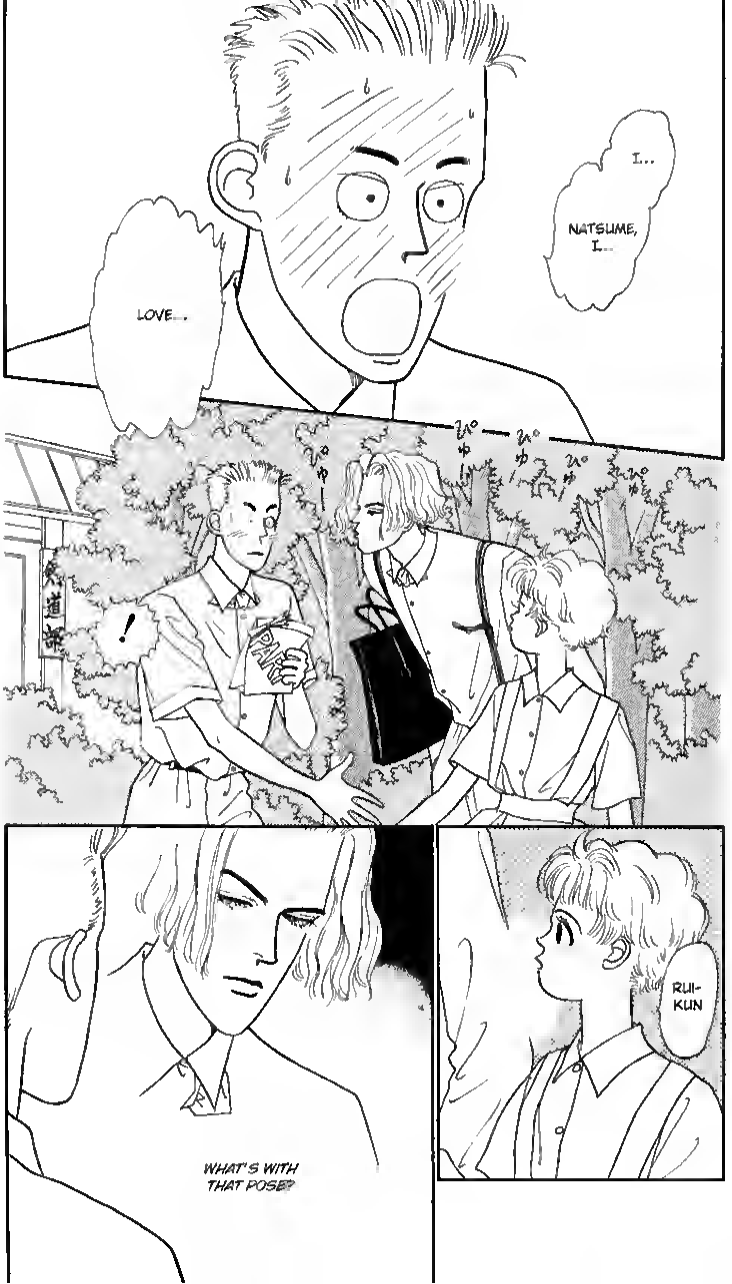
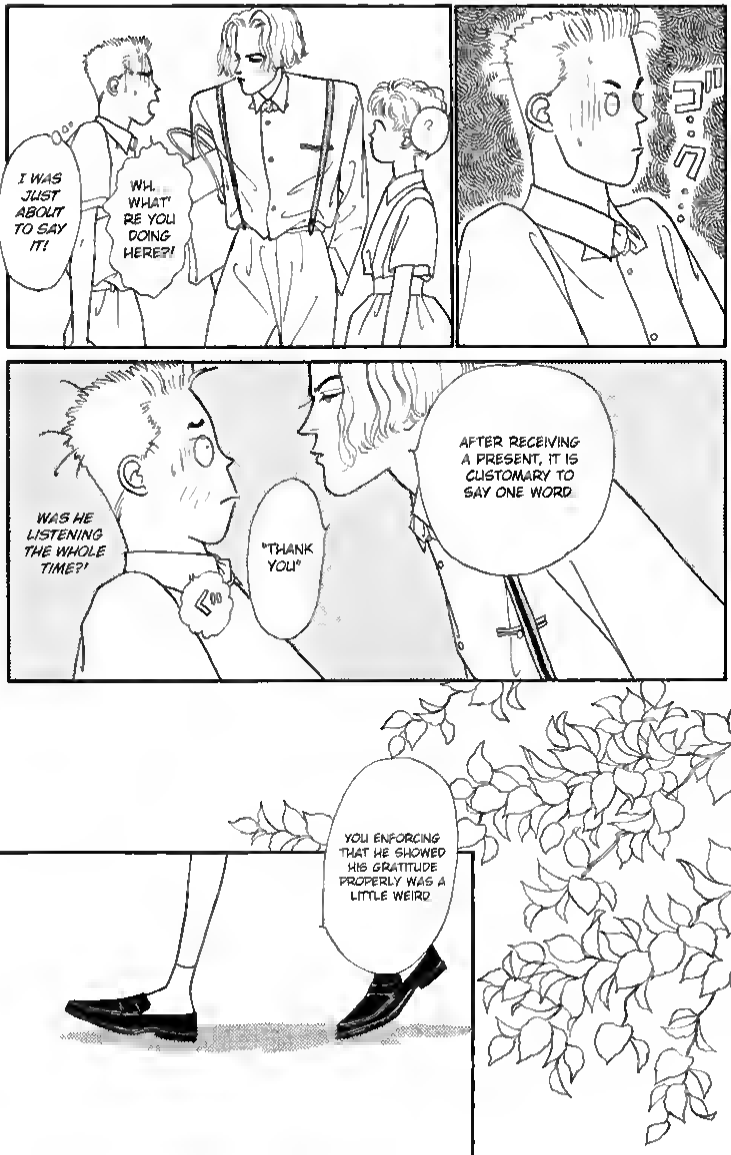
SEE YA!
WAIT!


I...
NATSUME, I...
LOVE...
PAL
!
RUI-KUN
WHAT'S WITH THAT POSE?


I WAS JUST ABOUT TO SAY IT!
WH- WHAT' RE YOU DOING HERE?!
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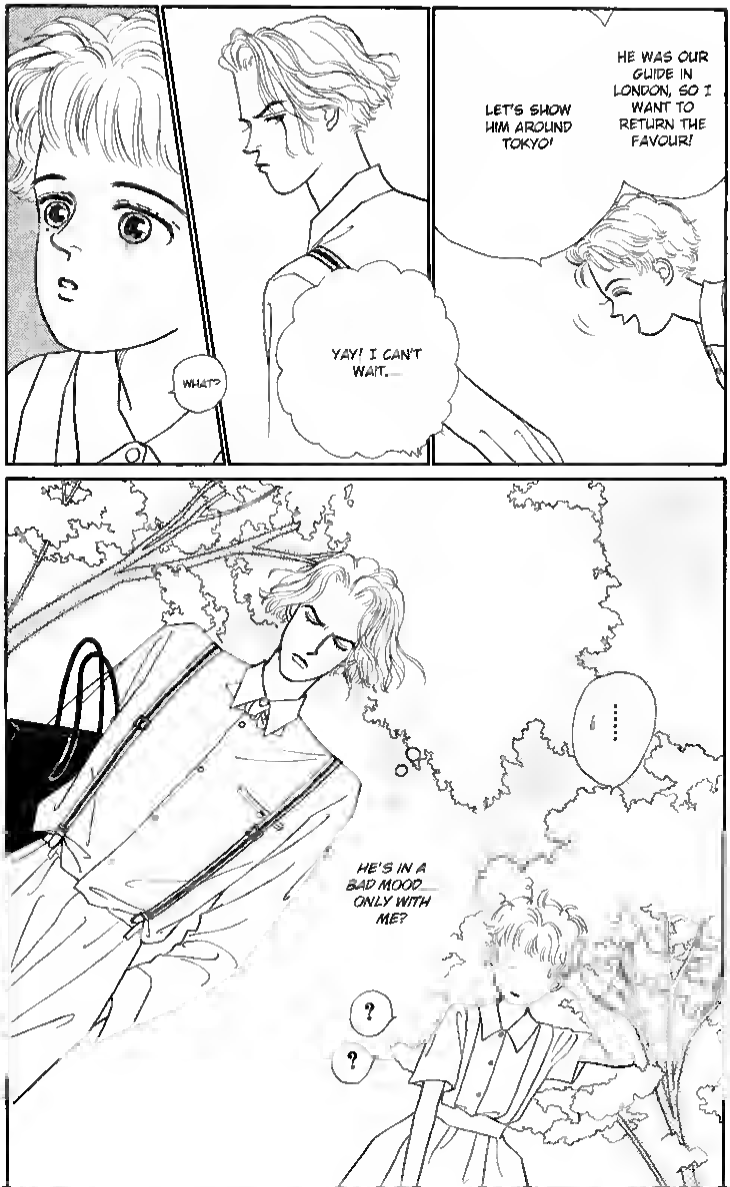
AFTER RECEIVING A PRESENT, IT IS CUSTOMARY TO SAY ONE WORD
"THANK YOU"
WAS HE LISTENING THE WHOLE TIME?!
YOU ENFORCING THAT HE SHOWED HIS GRATITUDE PROPERLY WAS A LITTLE WEIRD

.....
WHAT WERE YOU DOING THERE, ANYWAY? OUTSIDE THE KENDO CLUB
IS HE IN A BAD MOOD TODAY?
THAT MUST BE IT.
SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW, RUI-SAN!
OR MAYBE NOT
I JUST REMEM-BERED!
HE'S STAYING AT DINA'S HOUSE
KERRY IS HERE IN JAPAN!


WHAT?
YAY! I CAN'T WAIT...
LET'S SHOW HIM AROUND TOKYO!
HE WAS OUR GUIDE IN LONDON, SO I WANT TO RETURN THE FAVOUR!
HE'S IN A BAD MOOD... ONLY WITH ME?
?
?

Fucking great!
Exciting!!
OKAY, OKAY...
NATSUME, TODAY'S SIGHTSEEING WAS THE BEST! TOKYO IS SO MUCH FUN!!
YEAH, APART FROM ALL THE TRAFFIC CONGESTION, TODAY WENT VERY SMOOTHLY.
BUT WHEN WE WERE STUCK IN THAT TRAFFIC JAM, I SAW A PLACE FULL OF DISCOS!
CAN WE GO TONIGHT? DO YOU DANCE, NATSUME?
THAT'S A BRILLIANT IDEA! BUT WE MADE PLANS TO GET DELICIOUS FOOD ALREADY.

Hi, MY NECK.
CHIYAKO HAS BROUGHT DRINKS OUT
THAT NOISE SOUNDED PAINFUL
Oh ……
Thanks a lot
BY THE WAY, WHEN YOU WERE IN PARIS, DID THAT KYOUSUKE BASTARD PICK ON YOU?
RUI, YOU CAN'T JUST ASSAULT PEOPLE LIKE THAT
Even though it was pretty funny
CUT IT OUT P-HELPER!
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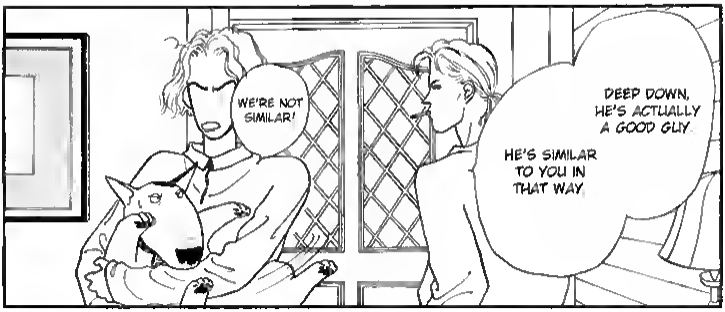
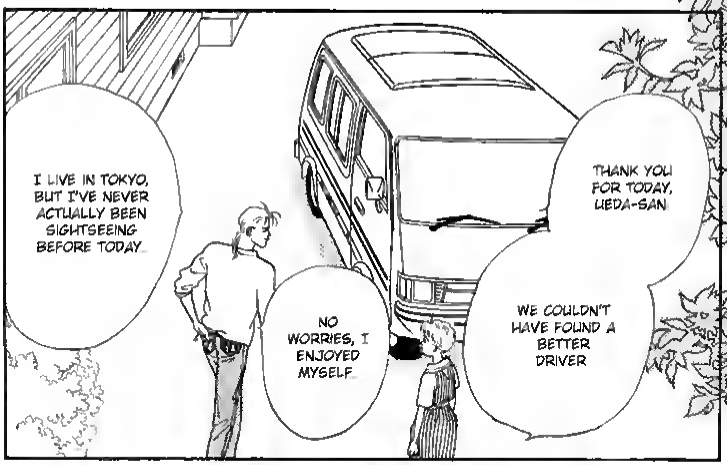
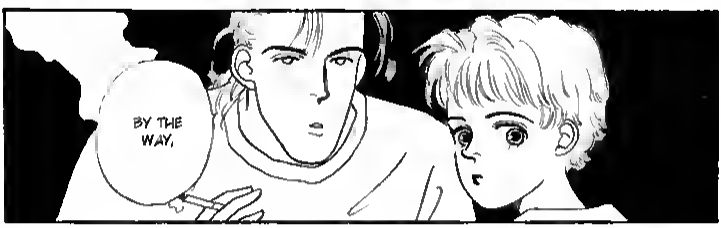
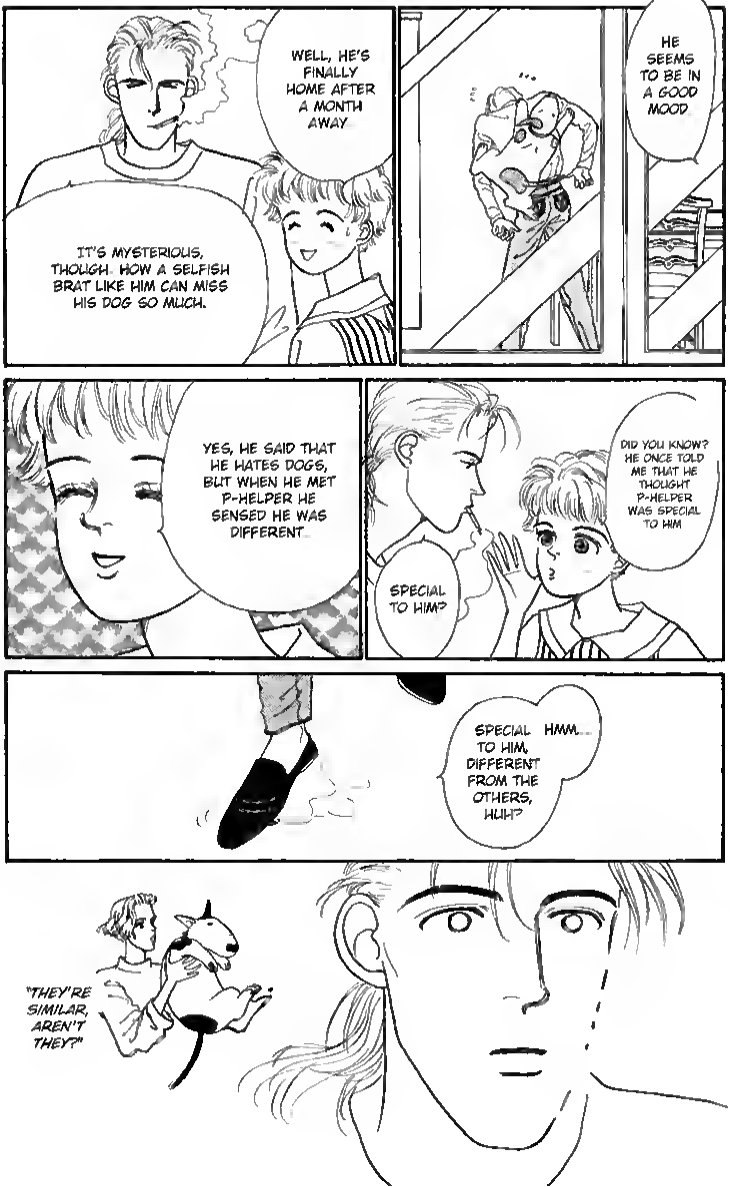

WE'RE NOT SIMILAR!
DEEP DOWN, HE'S ACTUALLY A GOOD GUY.
HE'S SIMILAR TO YOU IN THAT WAY.


I LIVE IN TOKYO, BUT I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY BEEN SIGHTSEEING BEFORE TODAY.
NO WORRIES, I ENJOYED MYSELF.
THANK YOU FOR TODAY, UEDA-SAN.
WE COULDN'T HAVE FOUND A BETTER DRIVER


BY THE WAY,


WELL, HE'S FINALLY HOME AFTER A MONTH AWAY
IT'S MYSTERIOUS, THOUGH. HOW A SELFISH BRAT LIKE HIM CAN MISS HIS DOG SO MUCH.
HE SEEMS TO BE IN A GOOD MOOD
YES, HE SAID THAT HE HATES DOGS, BUT WHEN HE MET P-HELPER HE SENSED HE WAS DIFFERENT...
DID YOU KNOW? HE ONCE TOLD ME THAT HE THOUGHT P-HELPER WAS SPECIAL TO HIM
SPECIAL TO HIM?
SPECIAL TO HIM, DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS, HUH?
HMM...
"THEY'RE SIMILAR, AREN'T THEY?"

WH... IS THERE SOMETHING ON MY FACE?
?
?
HAHAH, SO THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT?!
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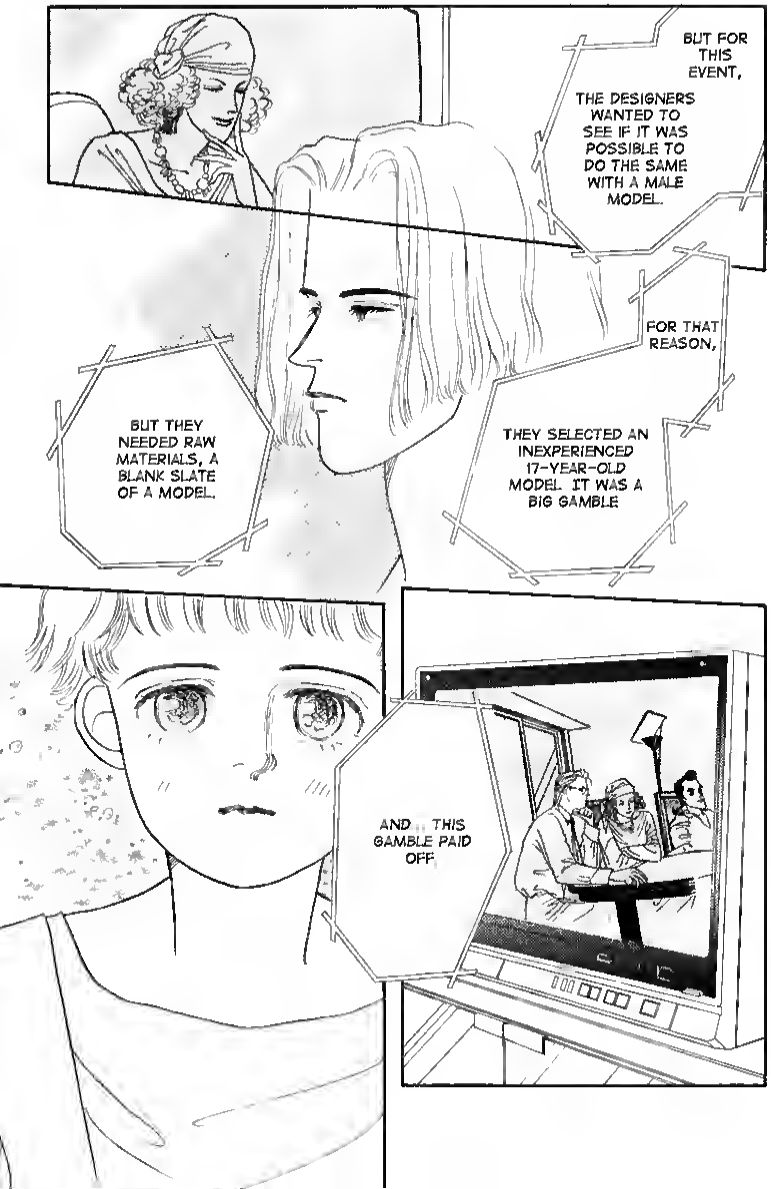
SEE YOU SOON, NATSUME-CHAN!
?
GOOD-BYE. .

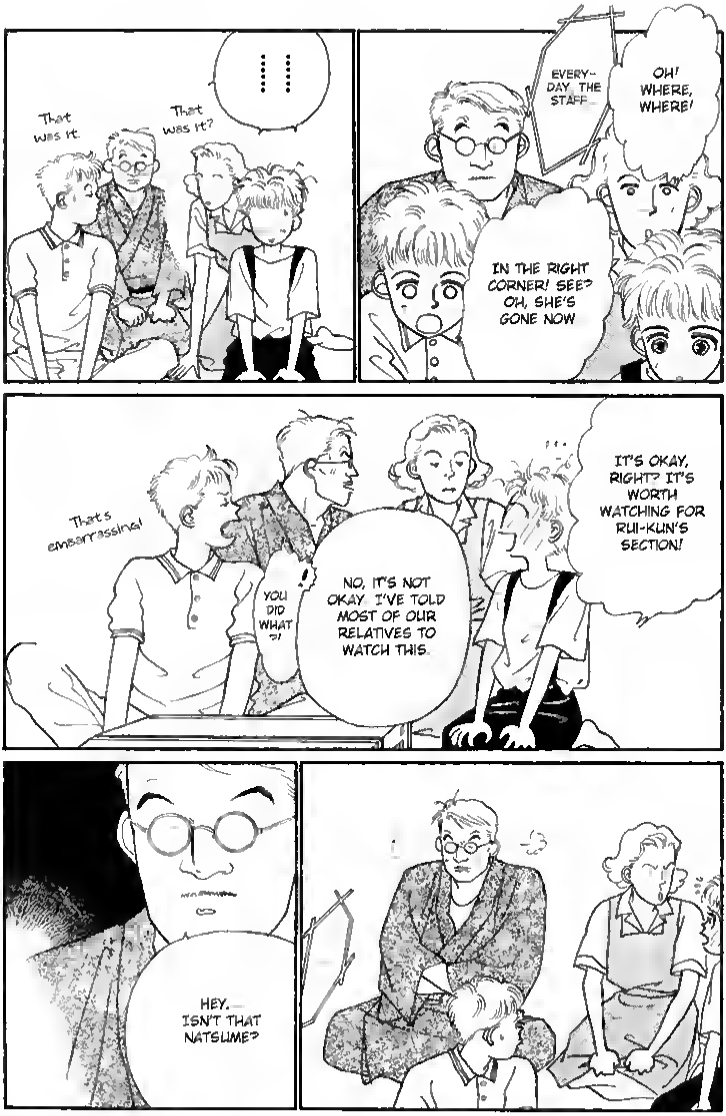
SO ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO BE ON TV?
THAT'S WHAT MY BOSS SAID.
IF YOU ARE, IT'S PROBABLY BY ACCIDENT.
MOM, HURRY UP!
IT'S STARTING!
I'M SURE THAT'S TRUE
BUT EVEN SO, THERE'S GOING TO BE LOTS OF RUI-KUN IN THIS SPECIAL!
AH, HERE WE GO!
THIS SUMMER, UP-AND-COMING DESIGNERS FROM JAPAN AND EUROPE GATHERED TOGETHER IN PARIS...
TO HOLD A THREE-DAY FASHION EVENT.
THIS TV SPECIAL COVERS...

AH! THAT GUY IS KATSURA RYUUICHI-SENSEI!
HE'S STRICT WHEN IT COMES TO WORK, BUT HE'S ACTUALLY A REALLY NICE GUY!
OH, AND LOOK, LOOK! HIS NAME IS HIROSHI MORISE-SENSEI!
HE WAS A NICE PERSON TOO!
WE DON'T NEED YOUR COMMEN-TARY!
WAAA!
SO BEAUTI-FUL!
LOOK AT THAT DRESS!
AH, AH! I'D LOVE TO HAVE AN OUTFIT LIKE THAT!
TURN OFF THE TV.

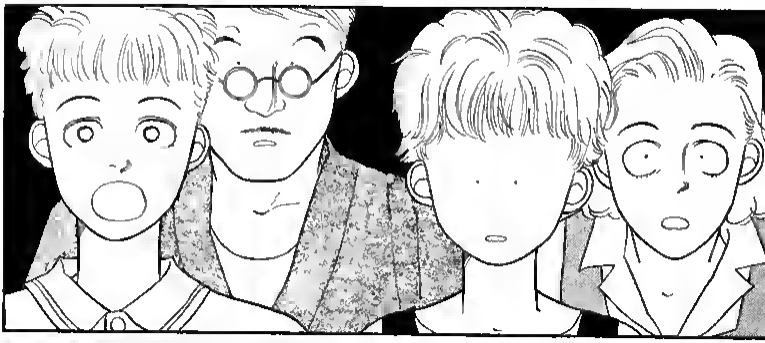
WE KNOW! BE QUIET!
AAAAAH! THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT RUI-KUN!
ONE OF THE STARS OF THIS EVENT WAS A 17-YEAR OLD...
HE WAS CHOSEN BY THE TEAM OF 3 DESIGNERS
SPEAKING IN RETROSPECT,
BECAUSE YOU HAVE THE FREEDOM TO VARY THEIR APPEARANCE MORE EASILY
TO BE HONEST, IT'S MUCH EASIER TO SELECT FEMALE MODELS THAN MALE ONES.
AN ARISTOCRAT OR AN INNOCENT YOUNG WOMAN IN A MATTER OF SECONDS.
THE SAME FEMALE MODEL CAN BE MADE TO LOOK...
LIKE A PROSTITUTE,

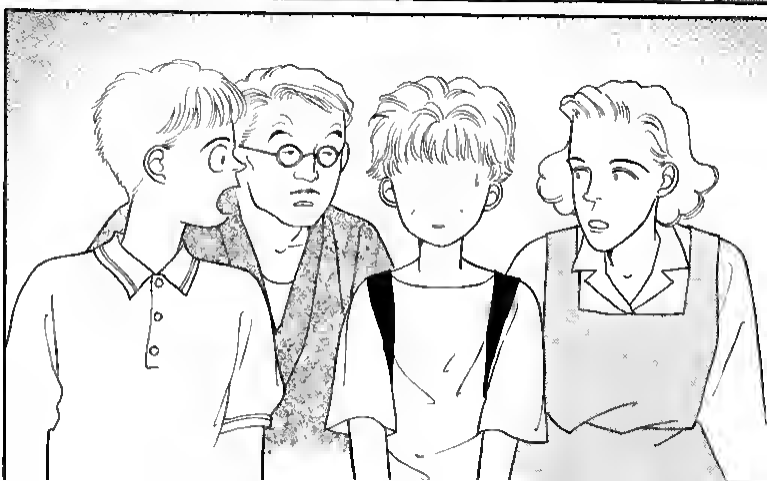

BUT FOR THIS EVENT,
THE DESIGNERS WANTED TO SEE IF IT WAS POSSIBLE TO DO THE SAME WITH A MALE MODEL.
FOR THAT REASON,
THEY SELECTED AN INEXPERIENCED 17-YEAR-OLD MODEL. IT WAS A BIG GAMBLE
BUT THEY NEEDED RAW MATERIALS, A BLANK SLATE OF A MODEL.
AND... THIS GAMBLE PAID OFF.

AMAZING! HE'S LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON!
LOOK, IT'S YOU, SIS!!
AHH, RUI-KUN I'M SO PROUD OF YOU!


That was it.
That was it?
.....
OH! WHERE, WHERE!
EVERY-DAY THE STAFF...
IN THE RIGHT CORNER! SEE? OH, SHE'S GONE NOW
That's embarrassing!
YOU DID WHAT -!
NO, IT'S NOT OKAY. I'VE TOLD MOST OF OUR RELATIVES TO WATCH THIS.
IT'S OKAY, RIGHT? IT'S WORTH WATCHING FOR RUI-KUN'S SECTION!
HEY,— ISN'T THAT NATSUME?

AS THE SHOW ENDED,
THE STAR MODEL SHED HIS MANY FACADES,
TO REVEAL HIS TRUE SELF, A 17-YEAR-OLD BOY IN LOVE.





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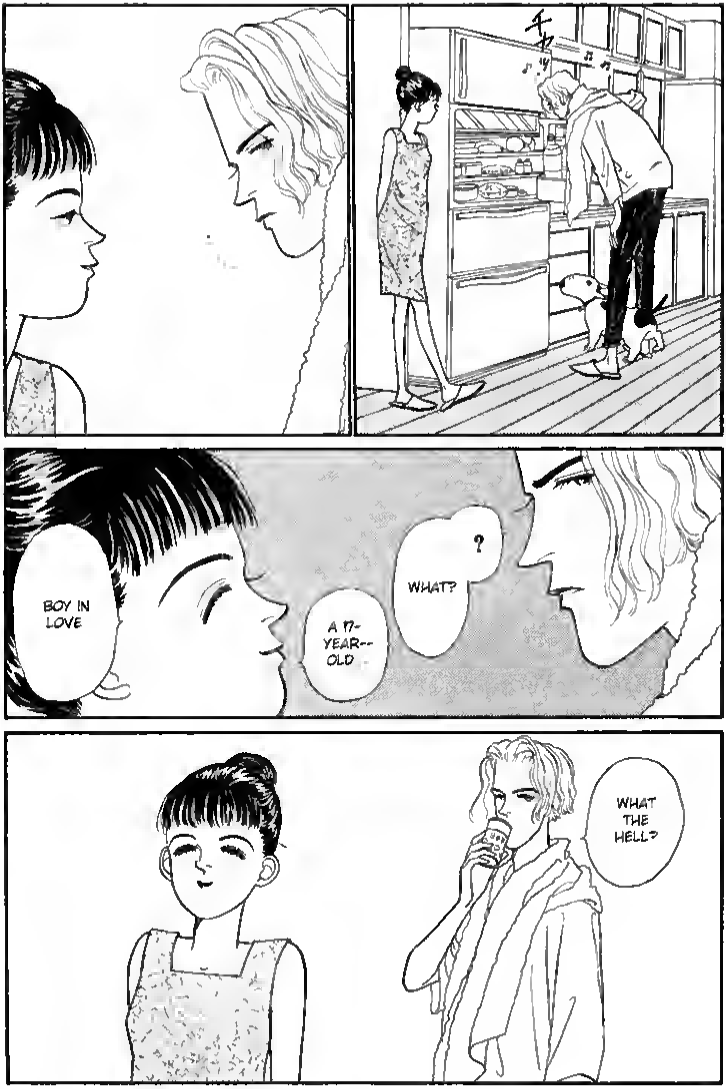
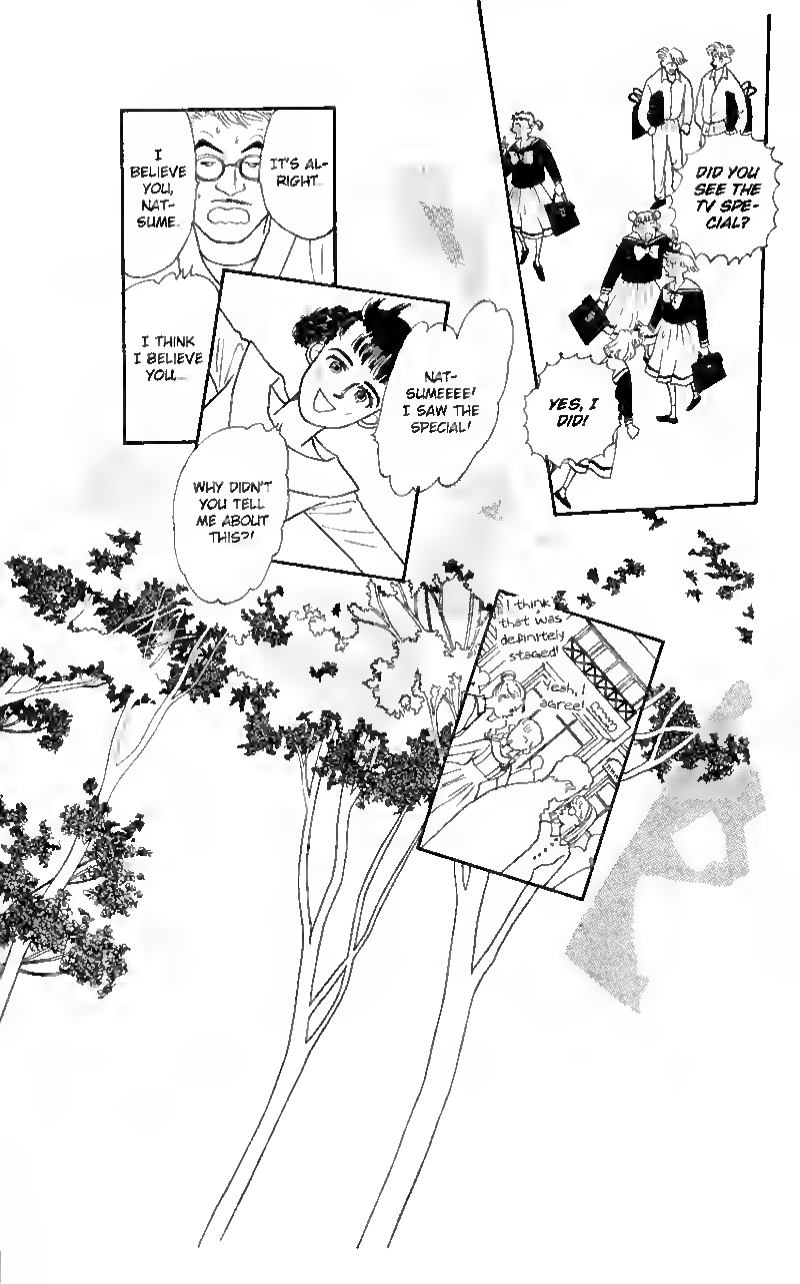
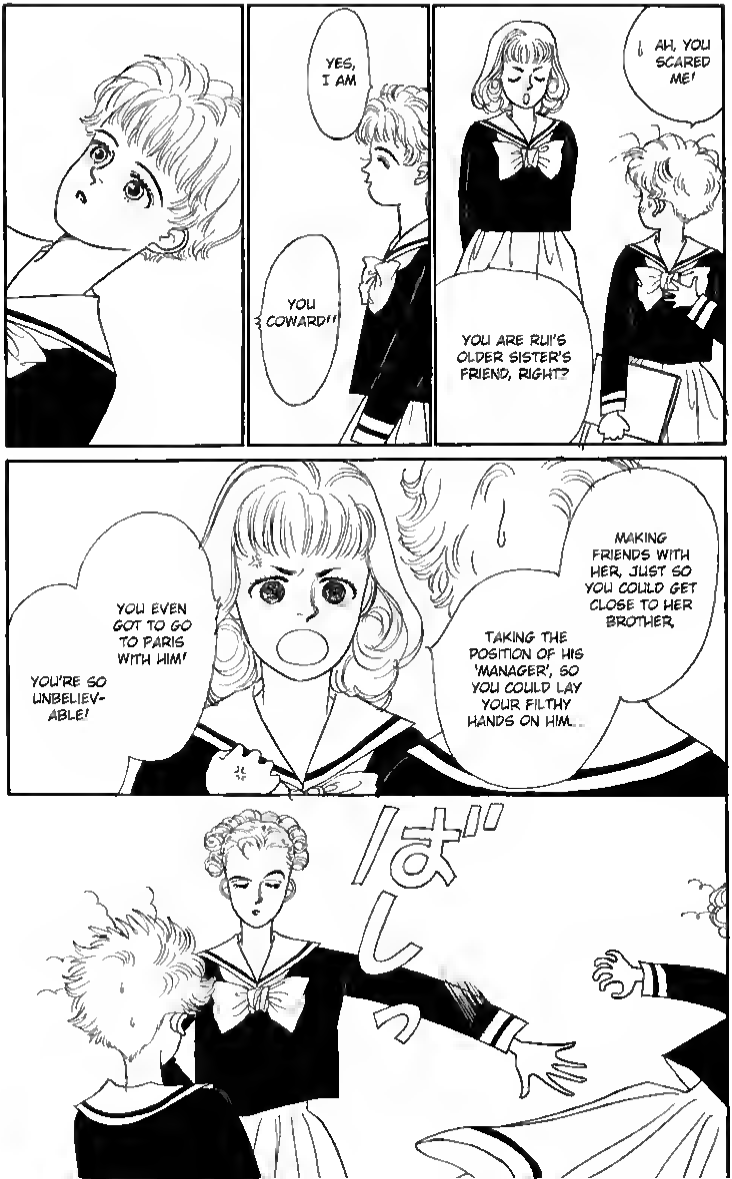
BREATH TAKING!
AH.
CHI-YAKO, WILL YOU MAKE ME A SAND-WICH?


BOY IN LOVE
A 17-YEAR-OLD
WHAT?
?
WHAT THE HELL?


I BELIEVE YOU, NATSUME...
IT'S ALRIGHT...
I THINK I BELIEVE YOU...
NATSUMEEEE! I SAW THE SPECIAL!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT THIS?!
DID YOU SEE THE TV SPECIAL?
YES, I DID!
I think that was definitely staged!
Yeah, I agree!
...

THE POWER OF THE TV IS SCARY
I FEEL LIKE A CRIMINAL WHOSE NAME AND FACE HAS BEEN REVEALED TO THE PUBLIC.
THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN


AH, YOU SCARED ME!
YOU ARE RUI'S OLDER SISTER'S FRIEND, RIGHT?
YES, I AM
YOU COWARD!!
MAKING FRIENDS WITH HER, JUST SO YOU COULD GET CLOSE TO HER BROTHER.
TAKING THE POSITION OF HIS 'MANAGER', SO YOU COULD LAY YOUR FILTHY HANDS ON HIM...
YOU EVEN GOT TO GO TO PARIS WITH HIM!
YOU'RE SO UNBELIEV-ABLE!
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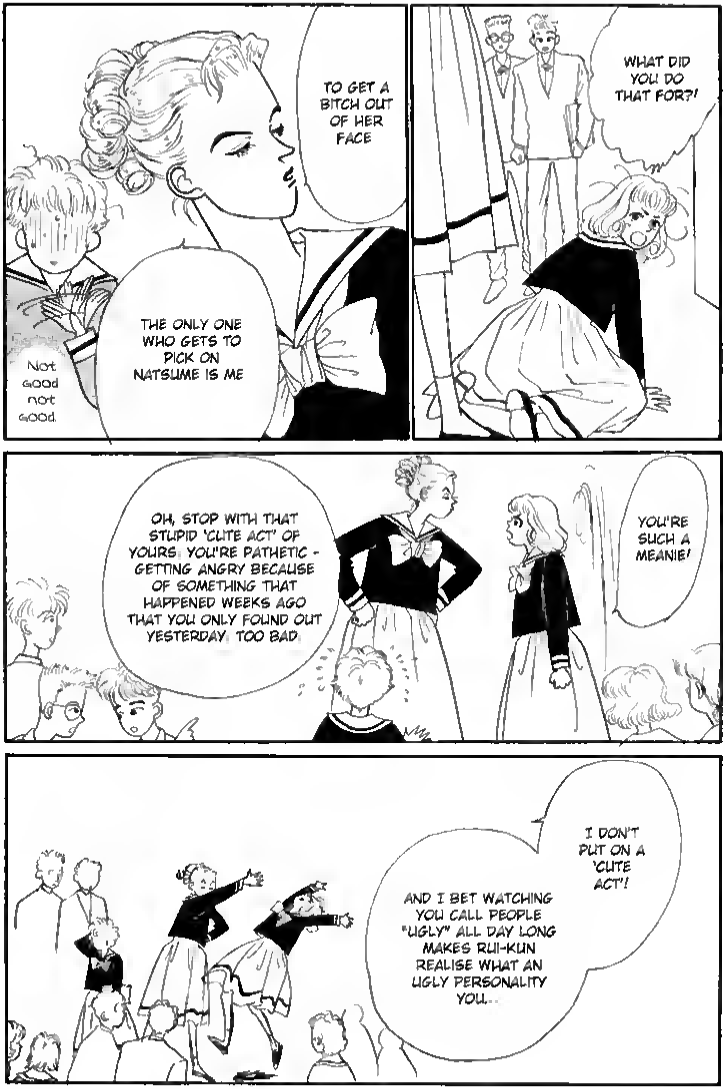
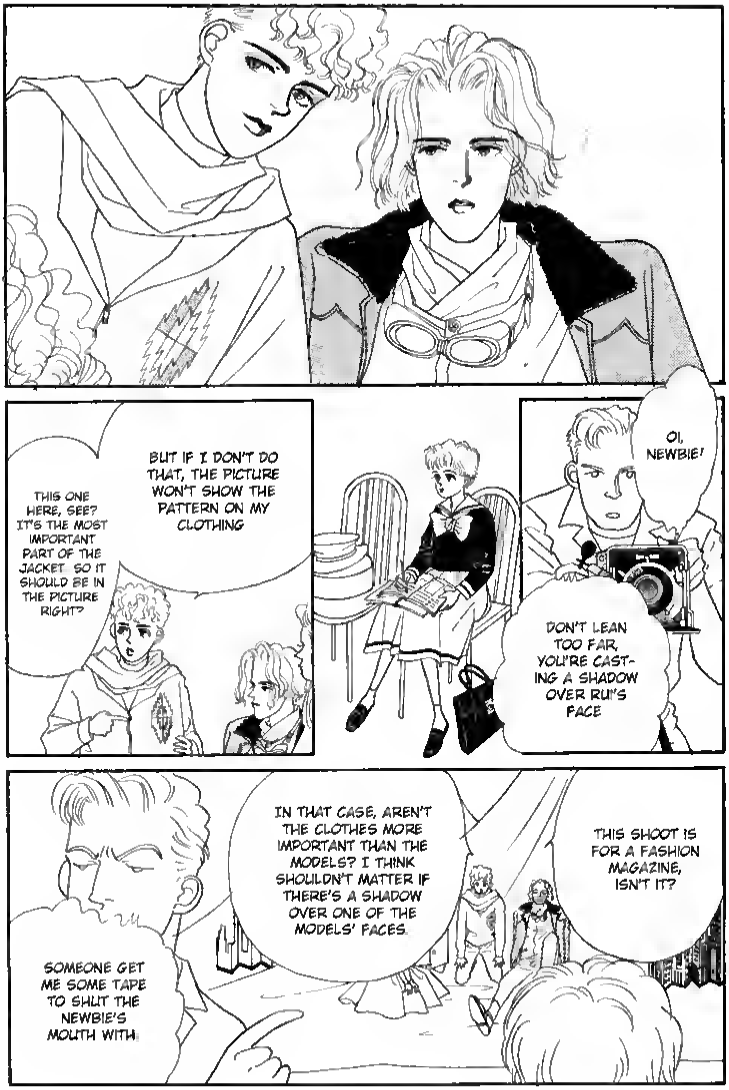

Not good not good.
THE ONLY ONE WHO GETS TO PICK ON NATSUME IS ME
TO GET A BITCH OUT OF HER FACE
WHAT DID YOU DO THAT FOR?!
OH, STOP WITH THAT STUPID 'CUTE ACT' OF YOURS. YOU'RE PATHETIC - GETTING ANGRY BECAUSE OF SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED WEEKS AGO THAT YOU ONLY FOUND OUT YESTERDAY. TOO BAD.
YOU'RE SUCH A MEANIE!
AND I BET WATCHING YOU CALL PEOPLE "UGLY" ALL DAY LONG MAKES RUI-KUN REALISE WHAT AN UGLY PERSONALITY YOU...
I DON'T PUT ON A 'CUTE ACT'!

YOU'RE A MAN, YOU'RE A MAN.
N...
ABOUT NATSUME-KUN... MAKE SURE YOU.
TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER!!
ARE YOU...
CRY ING?
WAAAAAAAAA!

ENSHO ABE
T5 STUDIO
UMM..
CAN WE TALK ABOUT THE TV SPECIAL?
OKAY...
WHAT ABOUT IT?
WELL, THAT BIT...

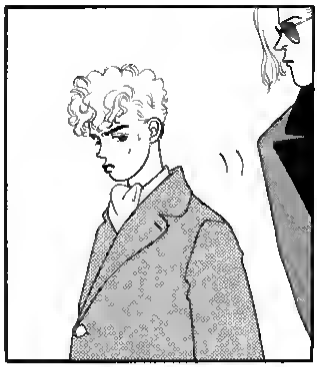
"GIANT MISUNDERSTANDING"?
STOP ACTING DUMB, RUI-KUN!
AND TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, MY MOTHER HAS BEEN RINGING ALL THE RELATIVES UP TO TELL THEM ABOUT IT. EVEN THOUGH IT'S JUST A GIANT MISUNDERSTANDING.
UMM, MY FAMILY WERE WATCHING ...
NOW, NOW ARE YOU TWO HAVING A LOVERS' QUARREL?
MAKE UP, MAKE UP.
MY KID
SEE?
L... LIKE THAT.
HAHA-HAHA!
RUI, STAND-BY!!

IT'S A STRANGE WORLD
.....


THIS SHOOT IS FOR A FASHION MAGAZINE, ISN'T IT?
IN THAT CASE, AREN'T THE CLOTHES MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE MODELS? I THINK SHOULDN'T MATTER IF THERE'S A SHADOW OVER ONE OF THE MODELS' FACES.
SOMEONE GET ME SOME TAPE TO SHUT THE NEWBIE'S MOUTH WITH.
OI, NEWBIE!
DON'T LEAN TOO FAR, YOU'RE CASTING A SHADOW OVER RU'S FACE
BUT IF I DON'T DO THAT, THE PICTURE WON'T SHOW THE PATTERN ON MY CLOTHING
THIS ONE HERE, SEE? IT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE JACKET. SO IT SHOULD BE IN THE PICTURE RIGHT?

HE'S QUITE GUTSY FOR A YOUNG MODEL

DON'T STAND SO CLOSE TO THE OTHER MODELS! LEAVE A BIT OF SPACE, WILL YOU?!
WE WANT RUI TO STAND OUT!



NEWBIE, HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?!

OK!
SO GO GET CHANGED QUICKLY
RUI, YOU HAVE A COUPLE MORE SHOTS TO DO,
THEY SEEMED TO BE HAPPY WITH WHATEVER POSES YOU DECIDED TO DO
I HOPE TO BECOME LIKE THAT ONE DAY...
HEY, YOU
SUGGESTIONS LIKE THAT SHOULD GO TO ANYBODY BUT THE CAMERAMEN, PREFERABLY BEFORE THE SHOOT ITSELF...
THEY EXPECT THE MODELS TO BE THINKING ONLY ABOUT THE POSES THEY ARE DOING, NOT WHAT THE FINAL PICTURE WILL LOOK LIKE

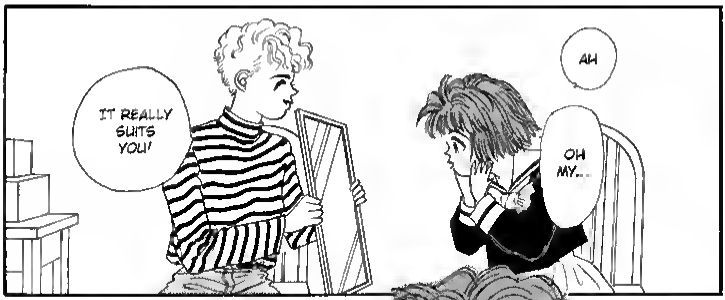
Do what you like.
YES, AS SOON AS THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL IS OVER, I HAVE TO SIT MY MOCK EXAMS
THIS IS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A STUDENT ABOUT TO SIT HER ENTRANCE EXAMS
STUDYING FOR AN EXAM?

I SAW THE TV SPECIAL
IT WAS A WONDERFUL LOVE SCENE
NO, NO, THAT WAS JUST THE NARRATOR MAKING THINGS UP
LOVE SCENE IT SOUNDS GOOD
ALTHOUGH I DO LIKE THAT WAY OF DE-SCRIBING IT.

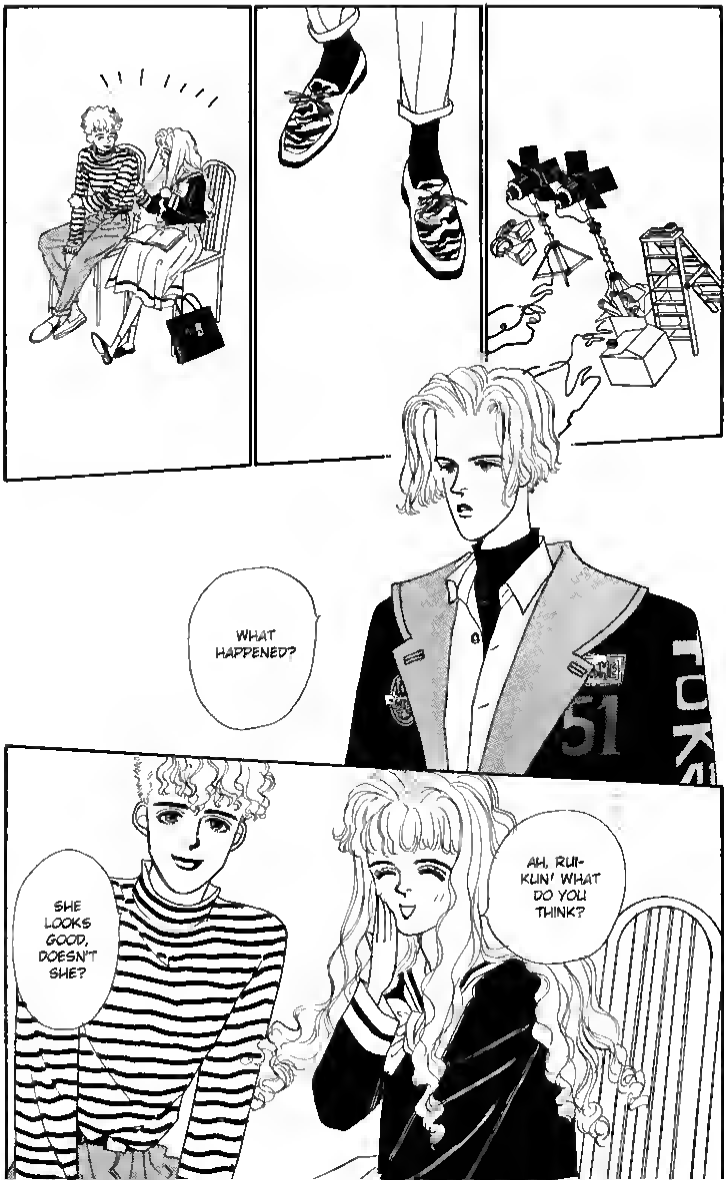
WHAT? OF COURSE I DO, I'M A GIRL, AFTER ALL.
DON'T YOU LIKE DRESSING UP, NATSUME-SAN?
YOU'D EXPECT SOMEONE TO DYE THEIR HAIR AT LEAST. IF THEY COME TO A PLACE LIKE THIS EVERYDAY
BUT THEY'RE MODELS. THEY'RE IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT LEAGUE.
LOOK, THOSE GIRLS ARE ABOUT YOUR AGE, AREN'T THEY? OR MAYBE YOUNGER.

DON'T SAY THAT.
YOU COULD ALWAYS WEAR...

SOME-THING LIKE THIS

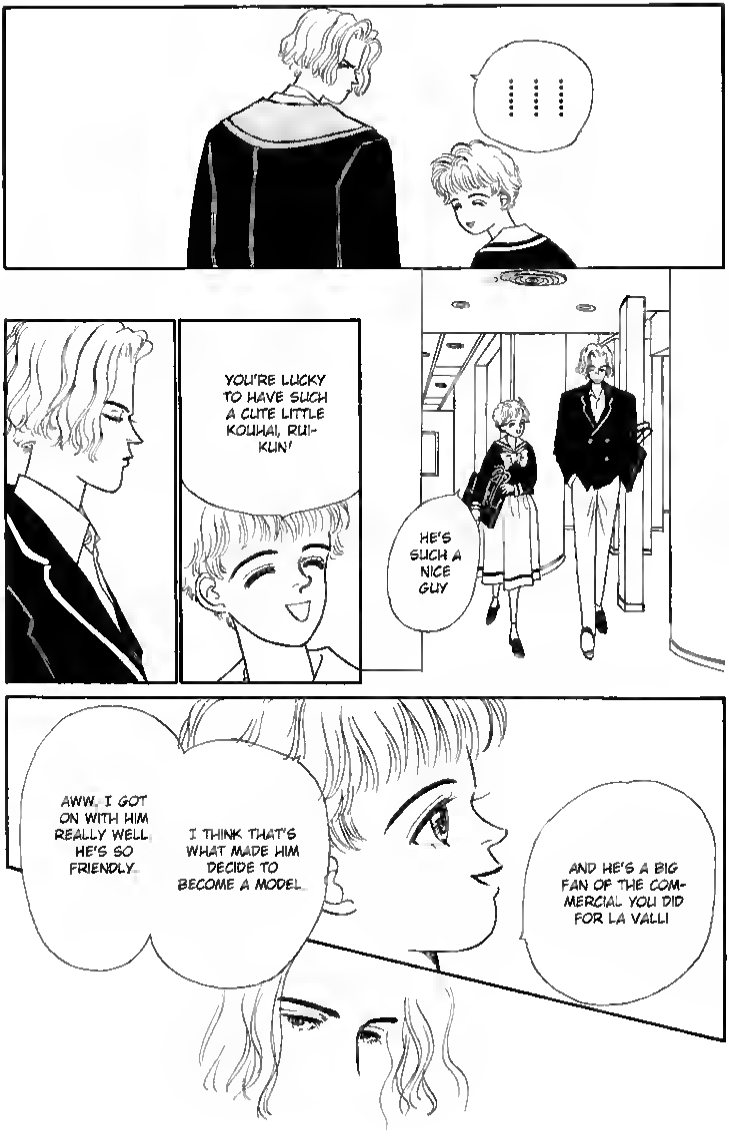

IT REALLY SUITS YOU!
AH
OH MY...

THAT'S SO WEIRD! IT'S LIKE I'VE BECOME A DIFFERENT PERSON!
NEXT, HOW ABOUT THIS ONE?


WHAT HAPPENED?
51
AH, RUI-KUN! WHAT DO YOU THINK?
SHE LOOKS GOOD, DOESN'T SHE?

SWAMP MONSTER.
I, I GUESS IT'S BEST TO STICK WITH MY NATURAL LOOK AFTER ALL...
YOU'RE SUCH A BULLY, RUI-SAN
IT DIDN'T LOOK BAD. I THOUGHT YOU LOOKED REALLY CUTE.

WE'RE LEAV-ING NOW!
COME ON, LET'S GO!
TODAY WAS FUN!
I HOPE WE'LL BE TOGETHER ON ANOTHER SHOOT SOON!

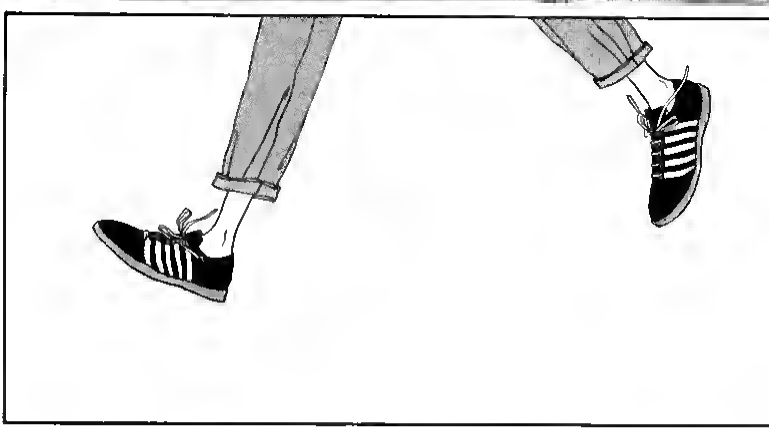

.....
YOU'RE LUCKY TO HAVE SUCH A CUTE LITTLE KOUHAI, RUI-KUN!
HE'S SUCH A NICE GUY
AWW, I GOT ON WITH HIM REALLY WELL HE'S SO FRIENDLY
I THINK THAT'S WHAT MADE HIM DECIDE TO BECOME A MODEL
AND HE'S A BIG FAN OF THE COM-MERCIAL YOU DID FOR LA VALLI

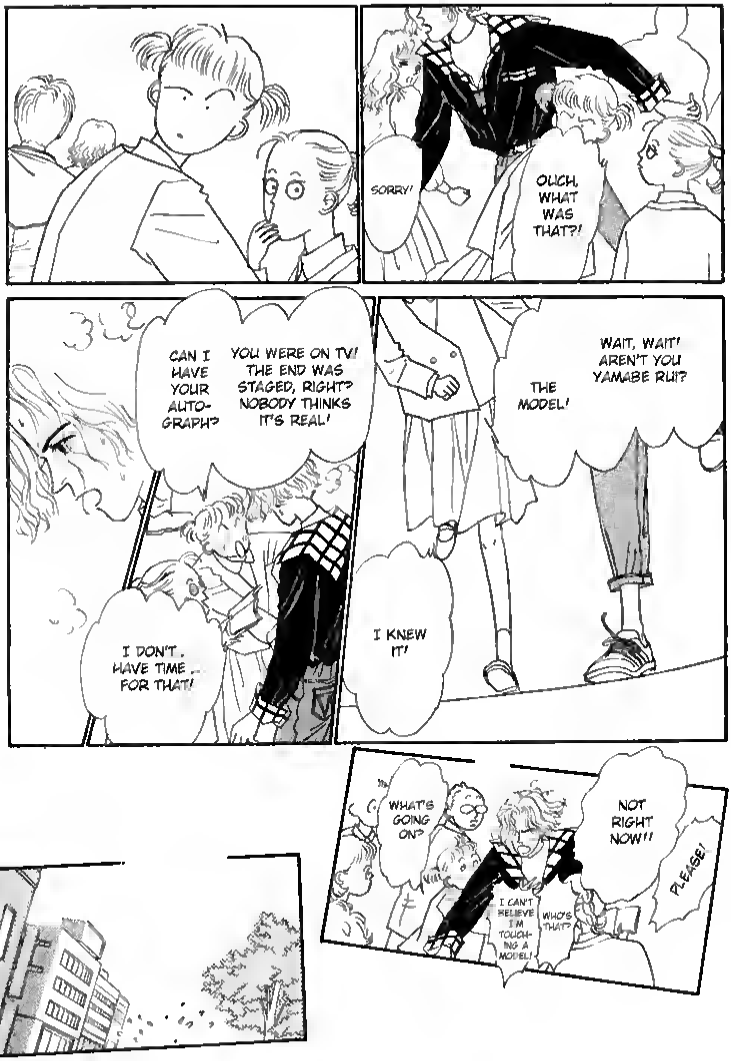
RIGHT
YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME TO THE STUDIOS WITH ME ANYMORE.
WHAT?
I SAID I DON'T WANT YOU TO COME TO THE STUDIOS WITH ME ANYMORE
YOU SHOULD BE STUDYING INSTEAD.
THAT'S MORE IMPORTANT.

IT'S OKAY
I CAN STUDY AT THE STUDIO JUST AS WELL AS AT HOME
WHAT-EVER.
JUST DON'T COME AGAIN!
IN FACT, I AM JEALOUS OF HER

I HADN'T NOTICED JUST HOW JEALOUS I WAS. IT SURPRISED ME.
IT'S JUST AS RUI SAID
FUNAHASHI-SAN TOLD ME THAT THIS REFERENCE BOOK WAS GOOD
I SEE
AH, HERE IT IS!
THAT'S A NICE WAY OF THINKING ABOUT IT.
THAT'S JUST PROOF THAT YOU ARE IN LOVE
THAT RUI IS WORRIED ABOUT YOUR STUDYING HABITS
IT REALLY IS EXTRAORDINARY, THOUGH

YOU HAVE A DATE TODAY?
TO THE DINOSAUR MUSEUM! DO YOU WANT TO COME, TOO?
NO THANKS
I'M GOING TO BE LATE
OH, THIS IS BAD
DON'T COME AGAIN!!
WELL, I'VE BASICALLY BEEN FIRED, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT IT'S SAD...
WILL DO!
SAY "HI" TO FUNAHASHI-SAN FOR ME!
THAT'S 2350 YEN!
DESPITE EVERYTHING, SHE SEEMS TO BE IN A GOOD MOOD.




SORRY!
OUCH, WHAT WAS THAT?!
CAN I HAVE YOUR AUTO-GRAPH?
YOU WERE ON TV! THE END WAS STAGED, RIGHT? NOBODY THINKS IT'S REAL!
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT!
WAIT, WAIT! AREN'T YOU YAMABE RUI?
THE MODEL!
I KNEW IT!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M TOUCH-ING A MODEL!
WHO'S THAT?
NOT RIGHT NOW!!
PLEASE!

WOW, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO BE LATE NOWADAYS
HURRY UP AND GET READY, THEN
I... OVER-SLEPT...
I COMPLETELY FORGOT
"RUI-KUN, WAKE UUUUUUUUUP!!!"
BECAUSE THE ALARM CLOCK WITH NO 'OFF' BUTTON WASN'T THERE.

HOW COME NATSUME-CHAN QUIT? IT'S A LITTLE LONELY WITH OUT HER.
NOBODY TO RUN ERRANDS FOR US.
BE QUIET.
OH NO, IT'S RAIN-ING!
WAIT, IT'S FINE IT'LL JUST ADD TO THE MOOD OF THE PICTURE

RUI, TRY TO PULL A MORE 'I'M ENJOYING MYSELF' FACE IN THIS NEXT ONE!
WHAT, IN SPITE OF ALL THE RAIN?!
In spite of the fact that I'm soaked through?!
In spite of the fact I'm freezing half to death?!
Aaaah... why did you have to go and become your old self again in the shoot I was in charge of?!
.....

SA?
OKAY, THEN
IT REALLY IS A SHAME, ISN'T IT?
OH, REALLY?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT. YES. IN THAT CASE, I WON'T MAKE THE REQUEST
UGGH, THIS IS BAD...
BEING REFUSED FROM THAT TYPE OF JOB...
I'VE HAD SO MANY MODELS BEING TURNED DOWN FOR JOBS THIS WEEK
COMMERCIALS MOVIES CATWALK JOBS YOU NAME IT...
AAAH, I WORRY ABOUT THE CORPORATION'S FUTURE ON WEEKS LIKE THIS
AND OUR STAR MODEL IS QUITTING AFTER THE YEAR ENDS...
WE REALLY NEED HIM TO STAY
RUI-SAN'S GOING TO QUIT?!

JUST BECAUSE HE SAYS HE'S GOING TO QUIT DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN HE WILL
I KNOW... IT'S UNBELIEVABLE, ISN'T IT? JUST WHEN HIS CAREER IS DOING SO WELL
I WONDER WHAT I CAN DO TO GET HIM TO STAY MAYBE I COULD TRY BURSTING INTO TEARS?
I GUESS SO...
WASN'T THE FACT THAT RUI-KUN WAS HERE THE REASON YOU CHOSE TO JOIN THIS AGENCY?
YOU SAID THAT IN THE INTER-VIEW
WHEN I ENTERED THIS WORLD,
HE WAS MY RIVAL FROM THE BEGIN-NING
RIVAL...?

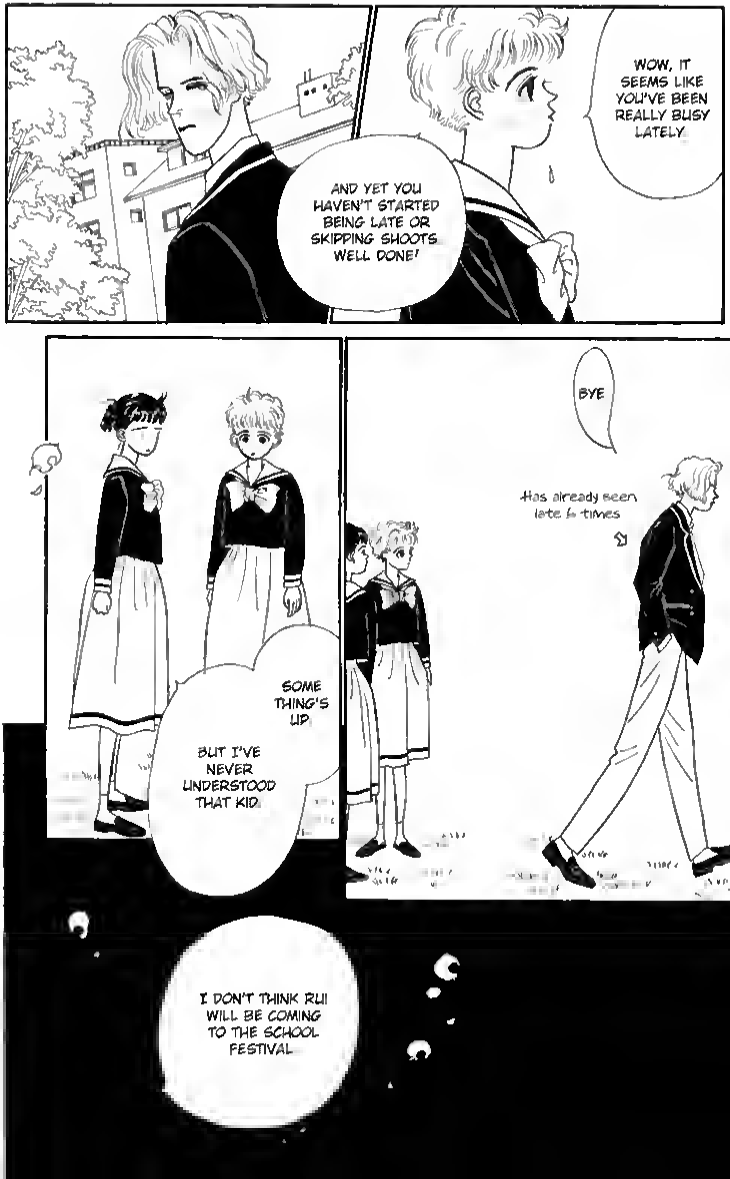
HM...
SO RUI-SAN WILL BE QUIT-TING
BOSS!
HUH?!
?
AFTER THAT, I WANT NATSUME-SAN TO BE MY MANAGER!
わはは

I'M FLYING, I'M FLYING!
NA... NATSUME! DON'T KICK LIKE THAT! I CAN SEE UP YOUR SKIRT!
KYAHA-HAHA.
THIS IS FUN!
HOHOHOHO
THIS WILL BE A GREAT SUCCESS AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL!
H... HEY!
WE BETTER RETURN IT TO THE GUYS AT THE KENDO CLUB SOON!

I CAN SEE YOUR PANTIES
!
OW, OW!
BAD LANDING!
HM...
I CAN SEE THAT YOU'RE REALLY BUSY STUDYING...
YOU MIGHT AS WELL STILL BE MY MANAGER.

UMM... THIS IS THE KENDO CLUB'S TRAMPOLINE. THEY'RE GOING TO USE IT AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL.
TO MAKE SURE THAT...
IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE FOR GIRLS TO USE IT, CHIYAKO AND I WERE TESTING IT OUT.
HE HAS A POINT
.....
HOW'S THAT BEEN GOING?
WELL, YES... I THINK...
YES, NATSUME'S REALLY GOOD AT IT!
RIGHT
AND WHAT ABOUT ALL THAT STUDYING YOU SAID YOU'D DO?
HUH?
YES, OF COURSE
SHE MAY RELAX EVERY NOW AND THEN.
CHILL OUT, RUI. IT'S OKAY FOR HER TO TAKE SOME TIME OUT TO RELAX!

HE'S BEEN APPEARING UNEXPECTEDLY MORE OFTEN THAN USUAL, RECENTLY.
OR IS IT JUST MY IMAGINATION?
HAHA, AS IF!
RUI-KUN! ON THE WAY HOME, DO YOU WANT TO COME EAT AT 'CHAN-TAKE' WITH US?
She's being brave.
MAYBE HE COMES TO FIND ME DELIBERATELY! THAT'S A NICE THOUGHT
NO FROM TODAY ONWARDS, I HAVE A GRAVURE SHOOT EVERYDAY.


WOW, IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN REALLY BUSY LATELY
AND YET YOU HAVEN'T STARTED BEING LATE OR SKIPPING SHOOTS WELL DONE!
BYE
Has already been late 4 times
SOME THING'S UP
BUT I'VE NEVER UNDERSTOOD THAT KID
I DON'T THINK RUI WILL BE COMING TO THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL

I THINK THE BOSS OF BT IS TRYING TO FIT AS MANY JOBS AS SHE CAN IN BEFORE HE QUITS.
HE ISN'T GETTING ANY TIME TO REST AT ALL.
HIS SCHEDULE RIGHT NOW IS UNBELIEVABLY BUSY.
HE'S BEEN ILL? WHAT WITH?
BUT HE SEEMED PERFECTLY OKAY YESTERDAY.
AND RECENTLY, HE HASN'T BEEN HIS BEST HEALTH-WISE, EITHER.
ALL THE OTHER MODELS ARE WONDERING HOW LONG HE'LL MANAGE TO LAST.
I DON'T KNOW.
...

I REALLY HOPE HE'S OKAY
"HOW'S THE STUDYING BEEN GOING?"
RUI-KUN..

I'M FINE. I DON'T NEED HER TO ACCOMPANY ME
RIGHT, WE'LL HAVE A 1-HOUR BREAK NOW,
AND THEN WE'LL MOVE TO THE NEXT LOCATION

In a good mood because he's eating →
YES I'M GOING TO STUFF MY FACE NOW, BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW WHEN THE NEXT TIME I'LL BE ABLE TO EAT WILL BE
ARE YOU GOING TO EAT ALL OF THAT?
All Ruis.
R... rumble...

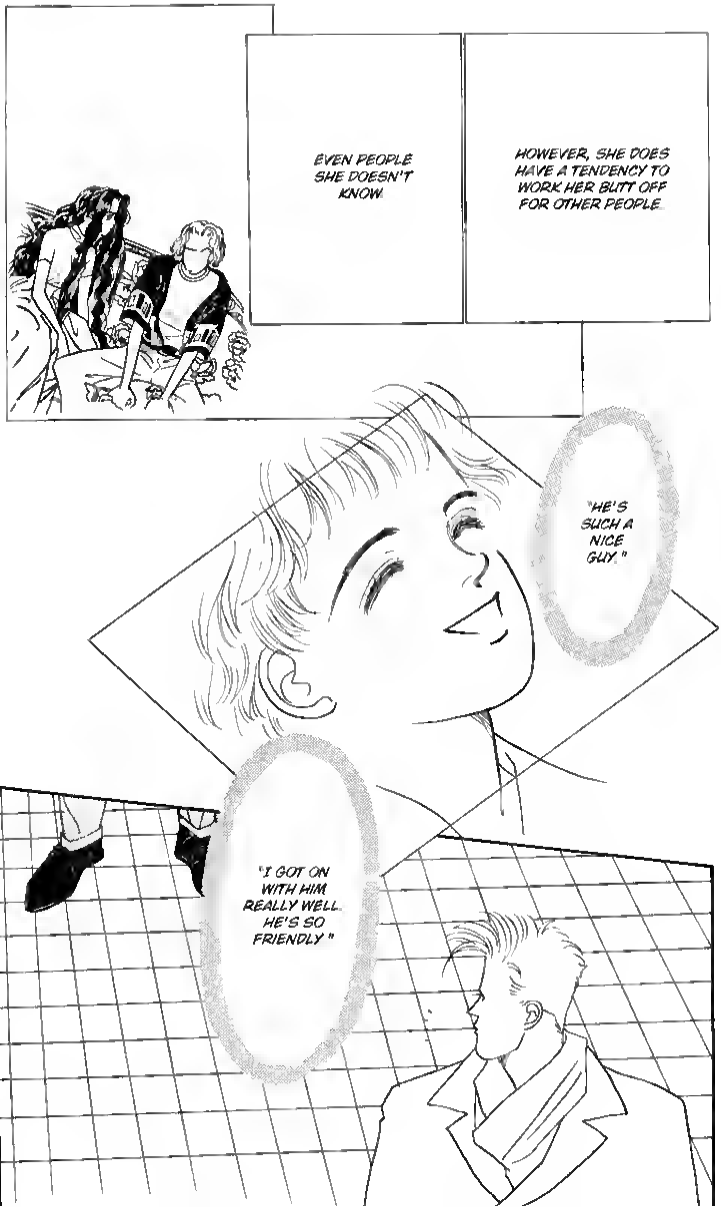
AREN'T YOU GOING TO EAT ANYTHING? HERE, TAKE SOME OF MINE
Okay then
NO, I'M DIETING...
YEAH
RUI-SAN, YOU'RE QUITTING MODELLING NEXT SPRING, AREN'T YOU?
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT ASKING NATSUME-SAN TO BE MY MANAGER.
OH. THAT SETTLES IT, THEN.

YOU WON'T NEED A MANAGER ANYMORE, SO IT'LL BE FINE
AND I'LL STILL BE IN THE BUSINESS, MY CAREER WILL FLOURISH...
I'LL BE REALLY BUSY, SO I'LL NEED SOMEONE LIKE NATSUME-SAN TO HELP
HEY, YOU.
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO HERE?
WHO KNOWS?

I DON'T THINK SHE'LL ACCEPT THE OFFER.
Regained his composure.
BUT NEXT YEAR, AFTER HER ENTRANCE EXAMS ARE OVER, SHE WON'T BE
RIGHT NOW, SHE'S TOO BUSY TO BE A MANAGER
YOU DON'T KNOW THAT.
I THINK SHE'D BE THE PERFECT MANAGER FOR ME.

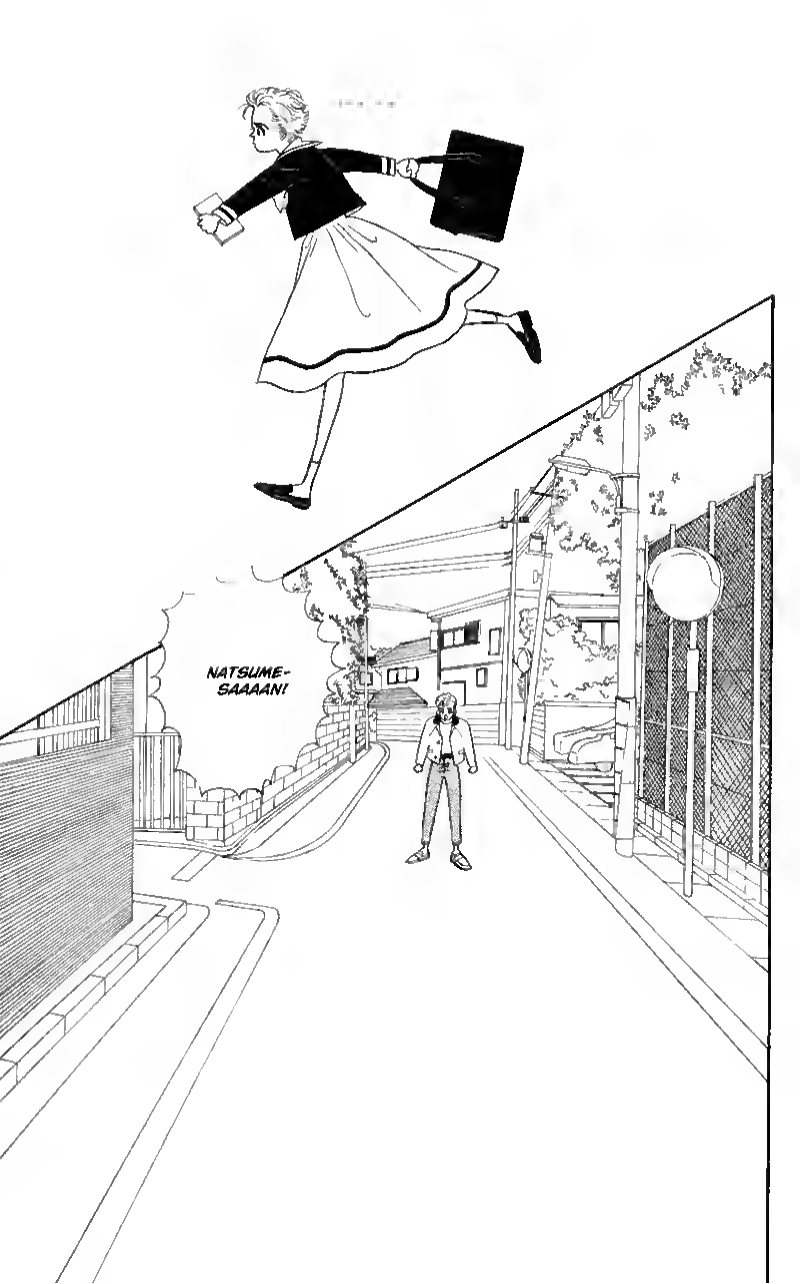
I'LL WAIT...
FOR YOU TO LEAVE THE BUSINESS BEFORE SHE BECOMES MY MANAGER.

HE'S GOT NO CHANCE
RUI, PLEASE RELAX A LITTLE. YOU'RE WALKING TOO STIFFLY.


EVEN PEOPLE SHE DOESN'T KNOW.
HOWEVER, SHE DOES HAVE A TENDENCY TO WORK HER BUTT OFF FOR OTHER PEOPLE.
"HE'S SUCH A NICE GUY."
"I GOT ON WITH HIM REALLY WELL. HE'S SO FRIENDLY."

RUI?
ARE YOU OKAY?
I . FEEL . SICK...
RUI?
WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU FEELING DIZZY?
WHAT?
ARE YOU GONNA THROW UP?

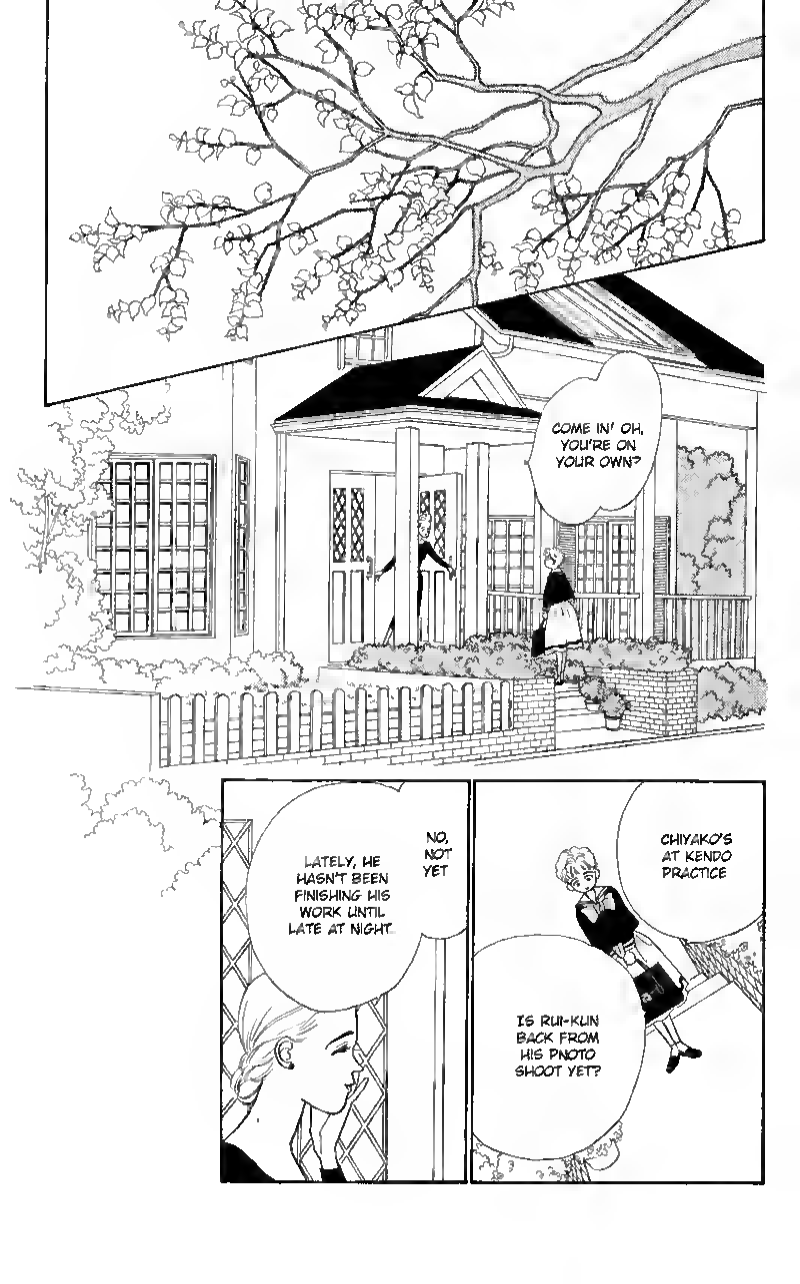
Somebody
bring a
towel over!

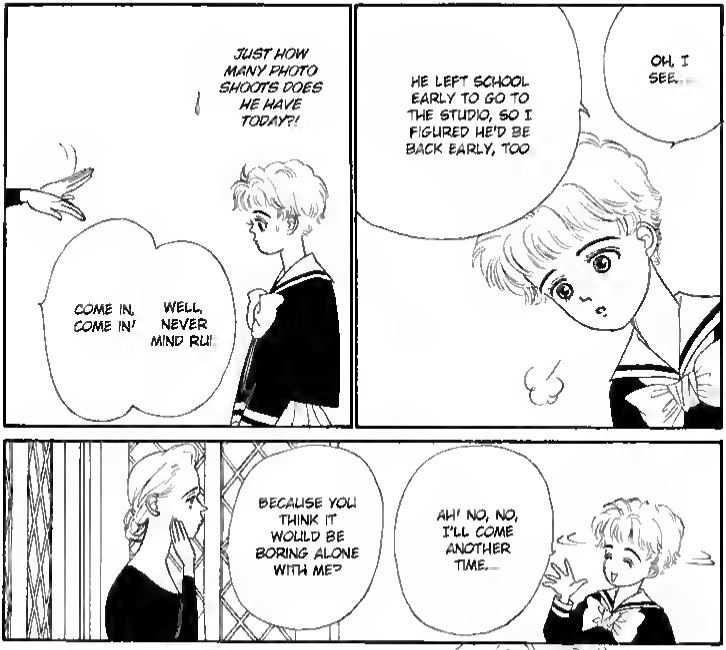

NATSUME-
SAAAAN!

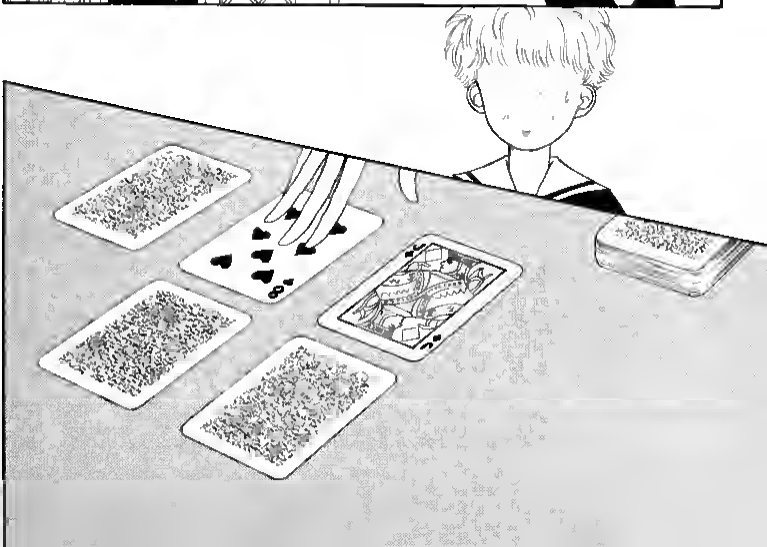
HMPH!
I'M NOT GONNA GIVE UP!
TSK
SHE GOT AWAY
IN ORDER TO BECOME A TOP MODEL,
I'LL HAVE TO COPY YAMABE RUI!

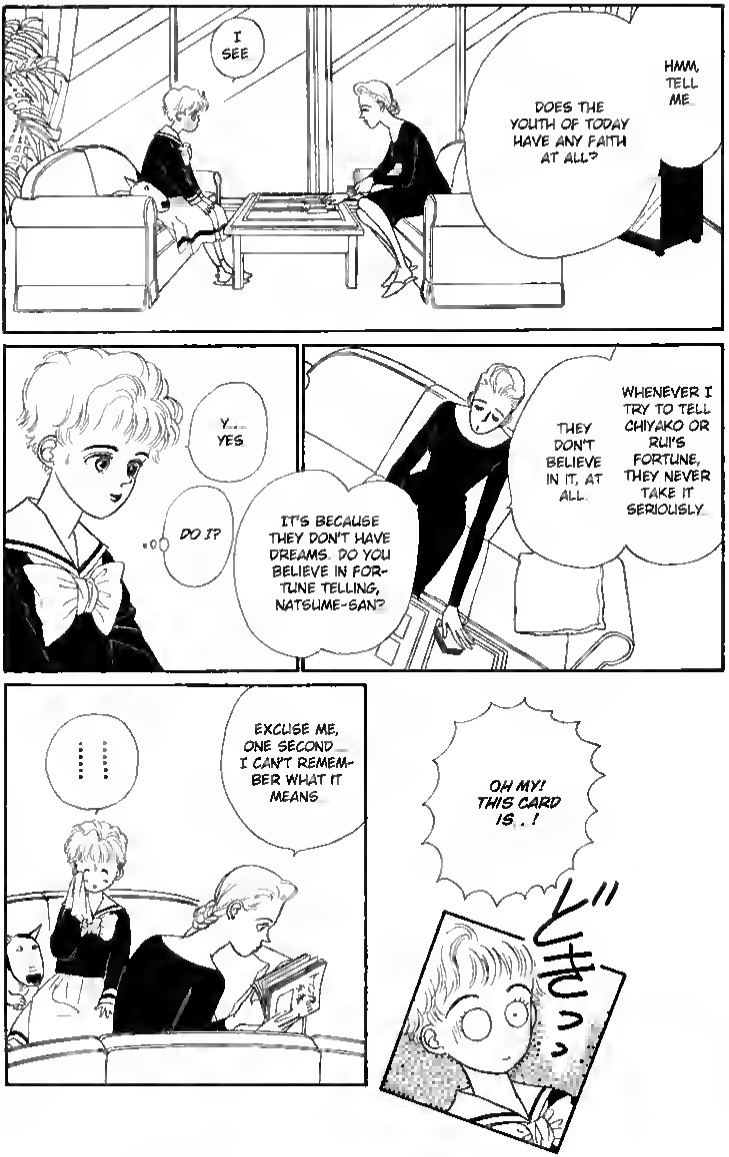
I MUST HAVE A CAPABLE MANAGER!
TO BE ABLE TO FOLLOW HIM PERFECTLY INTO THE WORLD OF THE BEST MODELS,
I HAD NO INTENTION OF MAKING THIS MY MAIN PROFESSION!
HE MUST BE MISUNDER-STANDING SOMETHING

"DON'T COME AGAIN!"
I WAS JUST HELPING RUI-KUN OUT BY DOING HIM A FAVOUR
THAT'S RIGHT!
"AND RECENTLY,"
"HE HASN'T BEEN HIS BEST HEALTH-WISE, EITHER."


COME IN! OH, YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN?
NO, NOT YET
LATELY, HE HASN'T BEEN FINISHING HIS WORK UNTIL LATE AT NIGHT.
CHIYAKO'S AT KENDO PRACTICE
IS RUI-KUN BACK FROM HIS PHOTO SHOOT YET?


OH, I SEE...
HE LEFT SCHOOL EARLY TO GO TO THE STUDIO, SO I FIGURED HE'D BE BACK EARLY, TOO
JUST HOW MANY PHOTO SHOOTS DOES HE HAVE TODAY?!
WELL, NEVER MIND RU!
COME IN, COME IN!
AH! NO, NO, I'LL COME ANOTHER TIME...
BECAUSE YOU THINK IT WOULD BE BORING ALONE WITH ME?

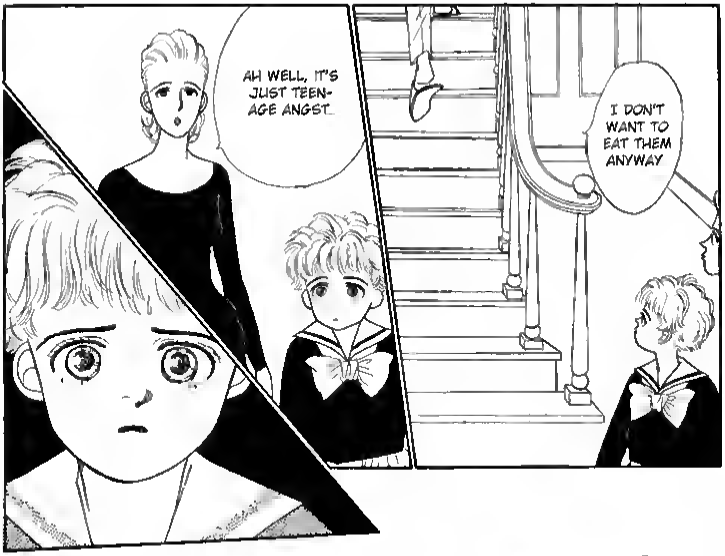


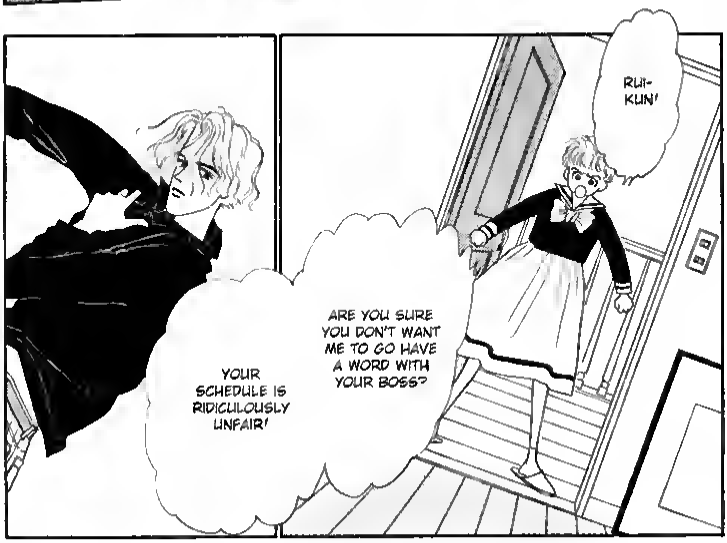

I SEE
HMM, TELL ME
DOES THE YOUTH OF TODAY HAVE ANY FAITH AT ALL?
Y... YES
DO I?
IT'S BECAUSE THEY DON'T HAVE DREAMS. DO YOU BELIEVE IN FORTUNE TELLING, NATSUME-SAN?
THEY DON'T BELIEVE IN IT, AT ALL.
WHENEVER I TRY TO TELL CHIYAKO OR RUI'S FORTUNE, THEY NEVER TAKE IT SERIOUSLY.
.....
EXCUSE ME, ONE SECOND... I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT IT MEANS.
OH MY! THIS CARD IS..!
レイセン

SOME-THING I'VE BEEN...
PLANNING...
WILL DEFI-NITELY...
OOH
WOW, IT'S A GOOD CARD!
SOMETHING YOU'RE PLANNING WILL DEFINITELY COME INTO EFFECT! THAT'S WHAT THIS ONE MEANS.
YAY!
IT SAYS, 'FACE YOUR GOAL AND DO YOUR BEST!'
AND IT HAS SOME ADVICE HERE, TOO.
THAT'S RIGHT!
YOU'RE LUCKY TO HAVE RECEIVED SUCH A GOOD FORTUNE...
I WILL FACE MY GOAL!!
IT COULD BE ABOUT THE ENTRANCE EXAMS!

HMM...
COULD I FIND OUT WHAT MY . 'LOVE FORTUNE' IS, THIS WAY?
LEAVE IT TO ME!!
NO NEED TO BE SO SHY!
ぱたら
ぱたら
ぱたら
WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
THE CARDS DON'T LIE!
YOU'RE PASSIONATELY IN LOVE WITH A YOUNGER MALE. THERE'S NO MISTAKING IT

RUI'S BACK!
WEL-COME HOME
YOUR MOTHER WAS JUST TELLING MY FORTUNE!
They really are delicious!
RUDE CHILDREN LIKE YOU DON'T GET TO EAT MY DELICIOUS FRESHLY-BAKED CINNAMON MUFFINS
RUI, THAT WAS RUDE.
I DON'T CARE


AH WELL, IT'S JUST TEEN-AGE ANGST...
I DON'T WANT TO EAT THEM ANYWAY


RUI-KUN!
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT ME TO GO HAVE A WORD WITH YOUR BOSS?
YOUR SCHEDULE IS RIDICULOUSLY UNFAIR!

RUI-KUN?
I THINK YOU SHOULD TAKE SOME TIME OFF TO REST.
MAKITA-KUN TOLD ME
HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?
YOUR COMPLEXION IS A LITTLE WEIRD TODAY. YOU MUST BE EXHALISTED. THIS SCHEDULE IS THE REASON YOU GOT ILL AT A SHOOT LAST WEEK AND THREW UP!
WHO SAID YOU COULD COME INTO MY ROOM?
MAKITA?! WHEN DID YOU SEE HIM?!

WHAT'S WRONG, RUI-KUN?!
いたたたた
YOUR STOMACH?! DOES YOUR STOMACH HURT?
いたたたた
I... I'LL CALL YOUR MOTHER UP
RUI-KUN!

THEY SAID IT WAS CALLED 'ACUTE GASTRITIS'
WE WERE ALL SURPRISED...
TO HEAR THAT HE ACTUALLY WAS ILL...
IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT CRAM PACKED SCHEDULE HE HAD!
NO WONDER HE'S BECOME ILL!
AFTER ALL, IT'D BE JUST LIKE HIM TO BE MAKING IT UP

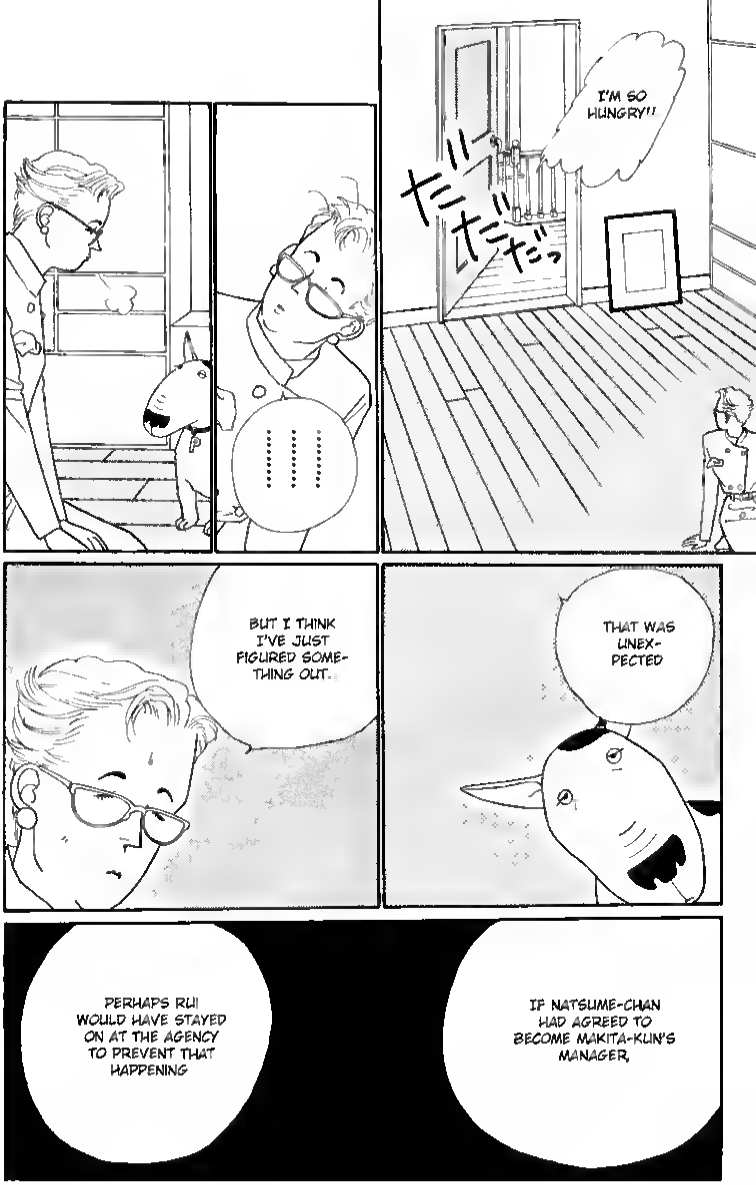
AND ON TOP OF THAT, THE AGENCY'S BEEN WORKING HIM TO THE BONE
HE HAS ALL HIS SCHOOL-WORK TO DEAL WITH AS WELL
RUI-KUN'S JUST A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT...
YESTERDAY I WENT TO THE MAIN OFFICE TO MEET HIS BOSS,
AND I SAW THE ACTUAL SCHEDULE. IT WAS EVEN WORSE THAN I'D IMAGINED!! HE HAD LITERALLY NO TIME TO REST UNTIL NEXT YEAR!!
N... NAT-SUME, YOU NEED TO CALM DOWN...
I'M NOT GOING TO LET THEM GET A WAY WITH THIS! I SWEAR! NEVER! NEVER!
YOU NEED TO CONCENTRATE ON THAT
BUT TODAY IS THE DAY OF THE MOCK EXAMS, RE-GARDLESS
I UNDER-STAND HOW YOU FEEL,

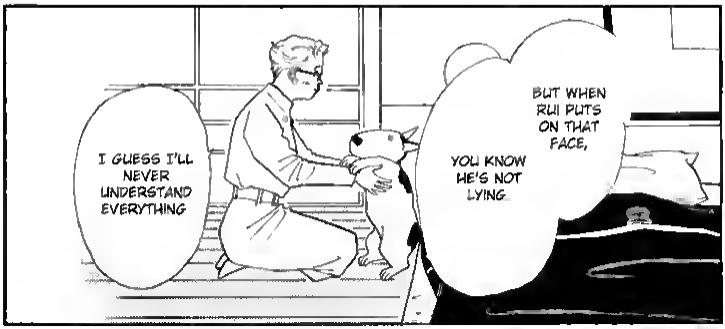
I... I GUESS ..
STOP THINKING ABOUT OTHER THINGS
YOU NEED TO FACE YOUR GOAL AND DO YOUR BEST!
GETTING ANGRY ABOUT IT WON'T CHANGE ANYTHING, ANYWAY.
AND RUI IS FINE, HE'LL BE FAST ASLEEP IN BED RIGHT NOW.

NATSUME-CHAN CAME TO TELL ME OFF YESTERDAY.
AS YOU'VE PROBABLY GUESSED, I'M HERE TO APOLOGIZE.
I SHOULD HAVE BEEN PUTTING YOUR WELL BEING FIRST.
I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED THAT.
I WAS GETTING SO MANY AMAZING OFFERS FOR YOU...
TOO MANY AMAZING OFFERS FOR YOU TO COPE WITH.
HEY, BOSS

DID SHE SAY ANYTHING .
ABOUT THAT TO YOU?
MAKITA MITSUO...
SAID HE WANTED HER TO BE HIS MANAGER.
NATSUME, THAT IS.
SHE TURNED DOWN THE OFFER
BUT SHE DIDN'T SEEM LIKE SHE WANTED TO DO IT
AH, YES SHE SAID MAKITA-KUN HAD ASKED HER TO TAKE UP THAT POSITION.

I THOUGHT SO
W. WAIT, RUI! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO STAY IN BED!
I'M GONNA GET SOME-THING TO EAT!


I'M SO HUNGRY!!
たべたいだっ
.....
BUT I THINK I'VE JUST FIGURED SOMETHING OUT.
THAT WAS UNEXPECTED
IF NATSUME-CHAN HAD AGREED TO BECOME MAKITA-KUN'S MANAGER,
PERHAPS RU WOULD HAVE STAYED ON AT THE AGENCY TO PREVENT THAT HAPPENING

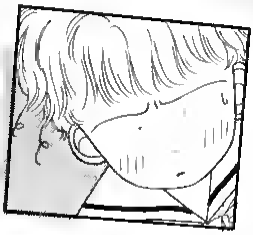

I GUESS I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING
BUT WHEN RUI PUTS ON THAT FACE,
YOU KNOW HE'S NOT LYING

SO YOU'VE COMPLETELY RECOVERED?
YES, DEFINITELY.
I HAVE A THEORY THAT...
RUI COULD RECOVER FROM ANY ILLNESS BY SLEEPING IT OFF.
YOU COULD BE RIGHT...
.....
OH YEAH.
HOW DID IT GO?
WHAT?
YOUR MOCK EXAM. IT WAS TODAY, RIGHT?

ARE YOU SURE YOU'LL BE OKAY?
WOW, REALLY? BUT YOUR ENGLISH IS RIDICULOUSLY BAD
HEHE, THAT'S TRUE.
YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR FIRST CHOICE OF UNIVERSITY TO B WOMEN'S JUNIOR COLLEGE
CHIYAKO TOLD ME THAT...
I MANAGED TO PRACTICE ENGLISH A BIT.
ON MY FIRST TRIP ABROAD,
...
WELL, IT IS A DIFFICULT PLACE TO GET INTO,
BUT...
IT WENT PRETTY SMOOTHLY, EVEN IF I SAY SO MYSELF
AND LAST TIME I SAW KERRY, WE HAD A CONVERSATION IN ENGLISH
I ENJOYED TEACHING HIM ABOUT DIFFERENT PLACES IN TOKYO
HAHA HA
IF I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN MYSELF

SO ANYWAY,
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT WHAT I WHAT TO DO IN THE FUTURE, AND I'VE FOUND THE ANSWER.
GO ON, THEN.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
I WANT TO GO INTO THE TOURISM INDUSTRY, AND BE AN INTERPRETING GUIDE FOR FOREIGNERS WHO COME TO JAPAN.

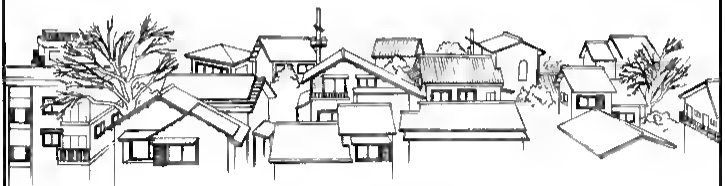
あっはっはっはっはっ
あっはっはっはっはっ
A... AND... YOUR MOTHER TOLD MY FORTUNE...
SHE SAID IF I DO MY BEST, SOMETHING I'VE BEEN PLANNING WILL COME TRUE...
ゲラゲラ
YOU'RE NEVER GONNA MAKE IT!



I KNOW MY ENGLISH ISN'T AS GOOD AS RUI-KUN'S. WHO'S PRACTICALLY FLUENT.

BUT...
BUT...

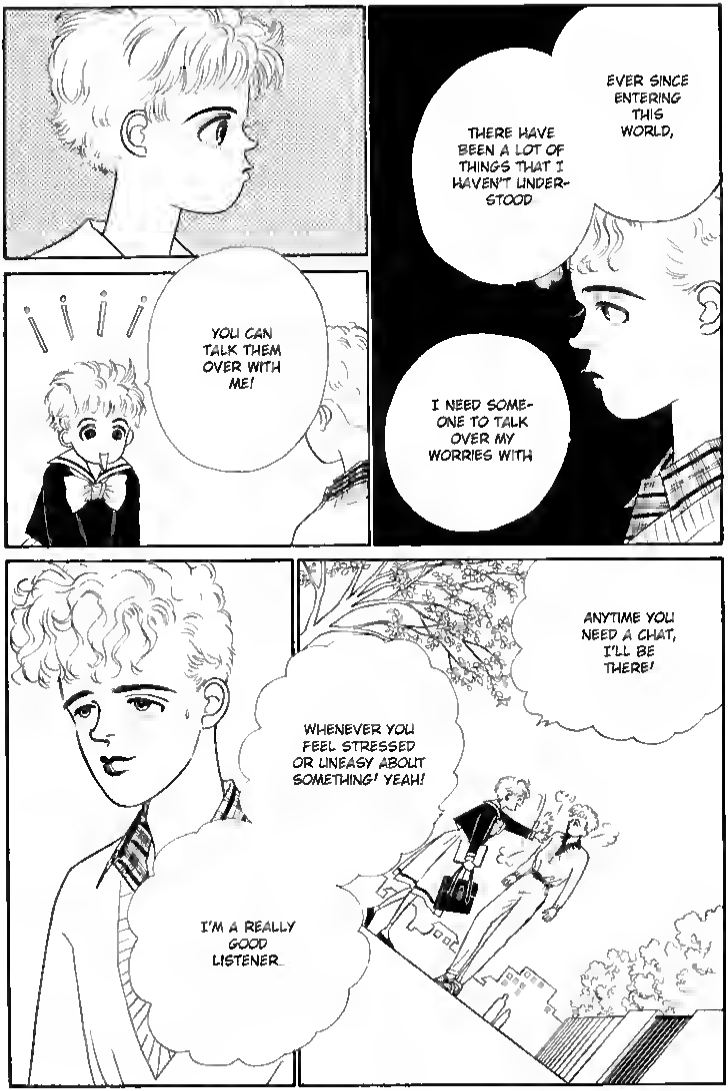
PEOPLE ARE SUPPOSED TO RESPECT THE DREAMS OF OTHERS.



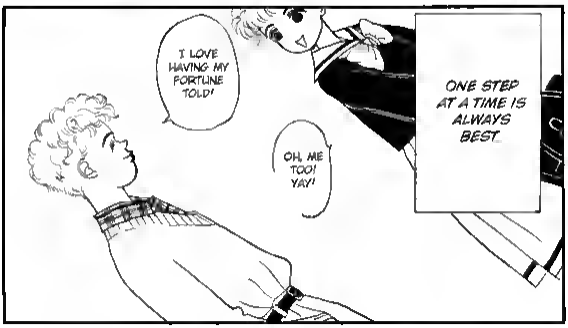
UGH.
AND JUST LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE IN LIFE, LANGUAGE ABILITY CAN IMPROVE...
WITH HARD WORK.
RIGHT.
DON'T LOOK DOWN ON ME!
I'LL SHOW YOU MY TRUE STRENGTH! SOON! I JUST NEED TO STUDY MORE.
PLEASE!

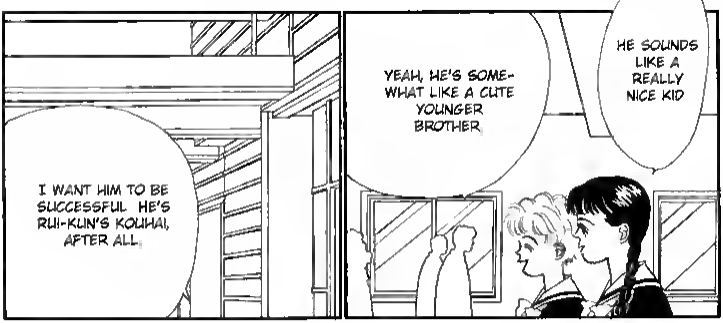
MAKITA-SAN, DON'T YOU REALIZE?
THE FACT THAT RUI-KUN BECAME SUCH A SUCCESS-FUL MODEL WASN'T BECAUSE I WAS HIS MANAGER
BESIDES, ALL I DID WAS MAKE SURE HE WAS ON TIME TO SHOOTS AND THEN HELP THE STYLISTS OUT
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE MODELLING WORLD.

I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.
THE LA VALLI COMMERCIAL, AND THE PARIS EVENT... THE SUCCESS HE HAD THEN WAS ENTIRELY AND DIRECTLY DUE TO RUI-KUN HIMSELF.
I HAVE CONFI-DENCE
JUST HAVE CONFIDENCE
THAT PROVES THAT YOU DON'T NEED A MANAGER TO BE SUC-CESSFUL.
I'M SORRY.
IT SEEMS IT'S IM-POSSIBLE AFTER ALL
I'LL GIVE UP ON YOU BEING MY MANAGER,
AT LEAST


EVER SINCE ENTERING THIS WORLD,
THERE HAVE BEEN A LOT OF THINGS THAT I HAVEN'T UNDERSTOOD
I NEED SOMEONE TO TALK OVER MY WORRIES WITH
YOU CAN TALK THEM OVER WITH ME!
ANYTIME YOU NEED A CHAT, I'LL BE THERE!
WHENEVER YOU FEEL STRESSED OR UNEASY ABOUT SOMETHING! YEAH!
I'M A REALLY GOOD LISTENER.

ANYHOW
OH, DO YOU BELIEVE IN FORTUNE TELLING? I GOT A REALLY GOOD CARD THE OTHER DAY!


I LOVE HAVING MY FORTUNE TOLD!
OH, ME TOO! YAY!
ONE STEP AT A TIME IS ALWAYS BEST.


I WANT HIM TO BE SUCCESSFUL. HE'S RUI-KUN'S KOUHAI, AFTER ALL.
YEAH, HE'S SOMEWHAT LIKE A CUTE YOUNGER BROTHER.
HE SOUNDS LIKE A REALLY NICE KID

OH
DINA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING SAT HERE?
HOW'S KERRY DOING? I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM LATELY
None of your business!!

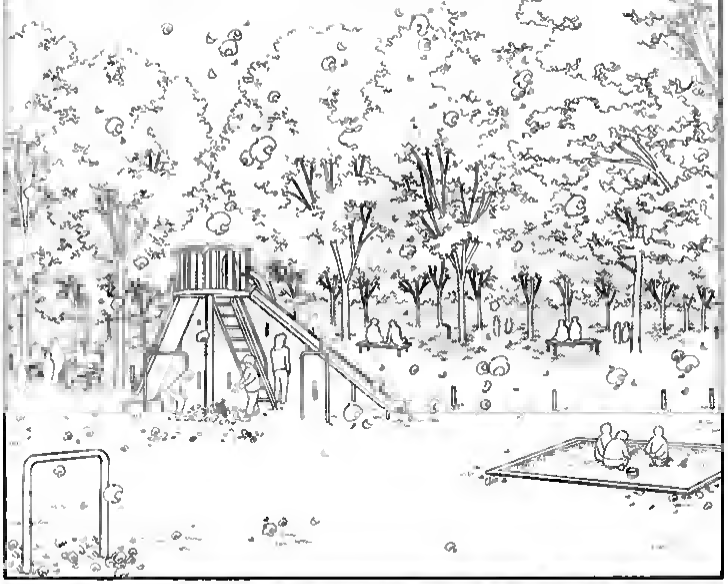
I DON'T KNOW. YOU'RE BETTER AT ENGLISH THAN ME.
WH... WHAT DID SHE S_Y?
DINA WASN'T IN BEST SPIRITS DURING THE SCHOOL FESTI VAL, EITHER.
AT THE DANCE PARTY, WHEN KERRY ASKED HER TO DANCE SHE WENT HOME
HE HAD TO WORK, OF COURSE.
MAYBE SHE THOUGHT IT WAS BORING WITHOUT RU!

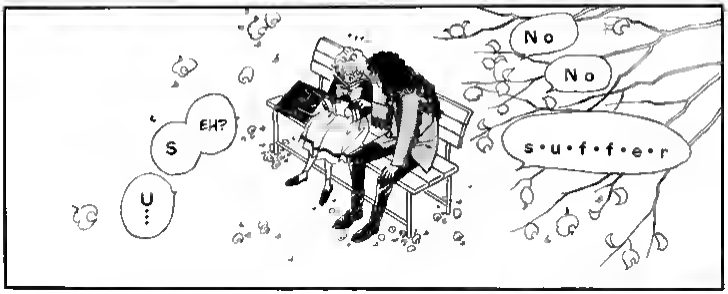
NO...
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN LONELY, CHIYAKO.
FUNAHASHI-SAN DIDN'T COME AFTER ALL
THAT WAS OUR LAST SCHOOL FESTIVAL
ALL THAT'S LEFT NOW ARE THE ENTRANCE EXAMS

RIGHT! I'M GOING TO DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO GET INTO B WOMEN'S JUNIOR COLLEGE!
やはっはっは
YES
I'LL SHOW YOU, RUI-KUN
HAHA
NATSUME, YOU HAVE LEAVES ON YOUR HEAD
CHI-YAKO!
DON'T BRUSH THEM OFF DURING MY DETERMINED POSE! I WAS FOCUSING MYSELF!
AH, I'M SORRY

hanker
NATSUME
HOW ARE YOU?'
HOW'VE YOU BEE. WAIT, I'LL SPEAK IN ENGLISH'
KERRY!
Hi

A B C
D E F
G H I J K
I.
I...
I'M WORRIED ABOUT DINA
NOT TOO GOOD, ACTUALLY.
H..
I DON'T THINK IT'LL WORK, NATSUME
HANG ON, I MEAN...
MOMENT! ONE MOMENT PLEASE, PLEASE!!
YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY EVERY-THING IN ENGLISH?
PLEASE SPEAK MORE SLOWLY!! SLOWLY, SLOWLY!
英和辞典 ENGLISH
OKAY!

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EH?
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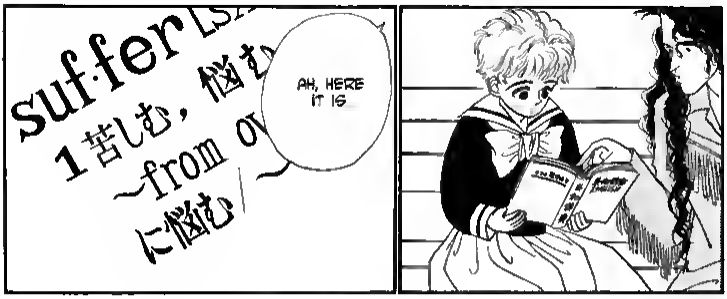
suf·fer
1苦しむ，悩む
~from o
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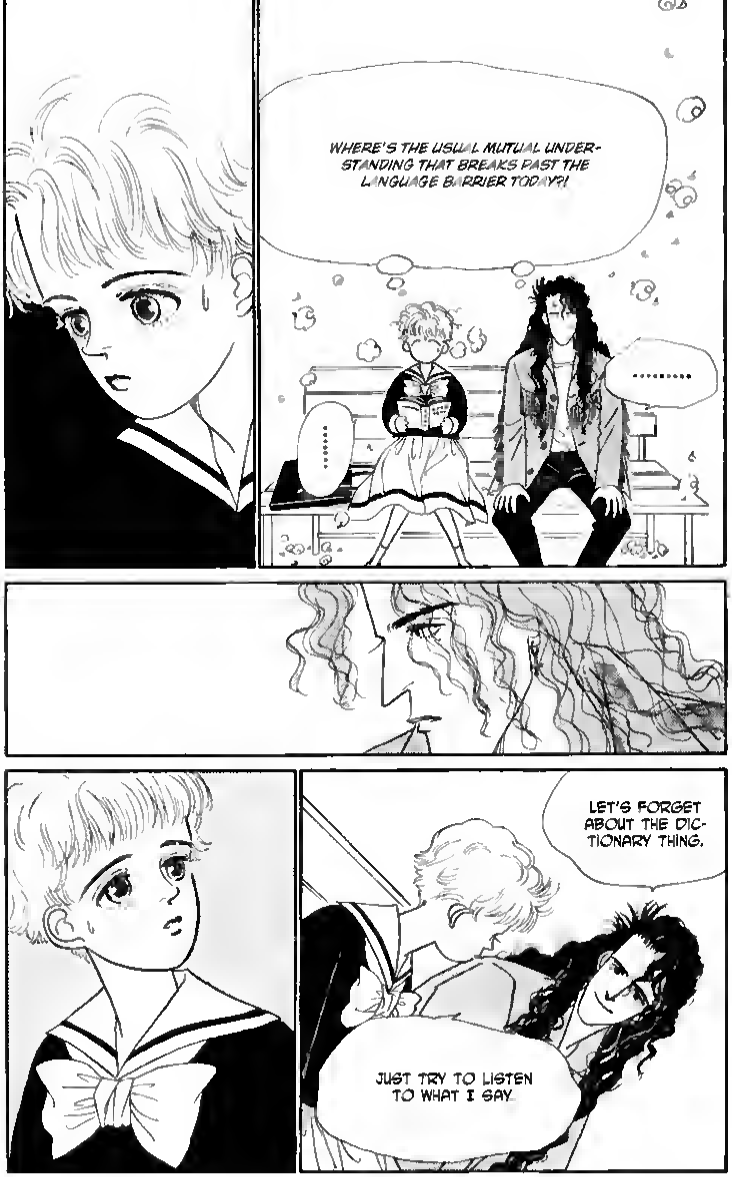
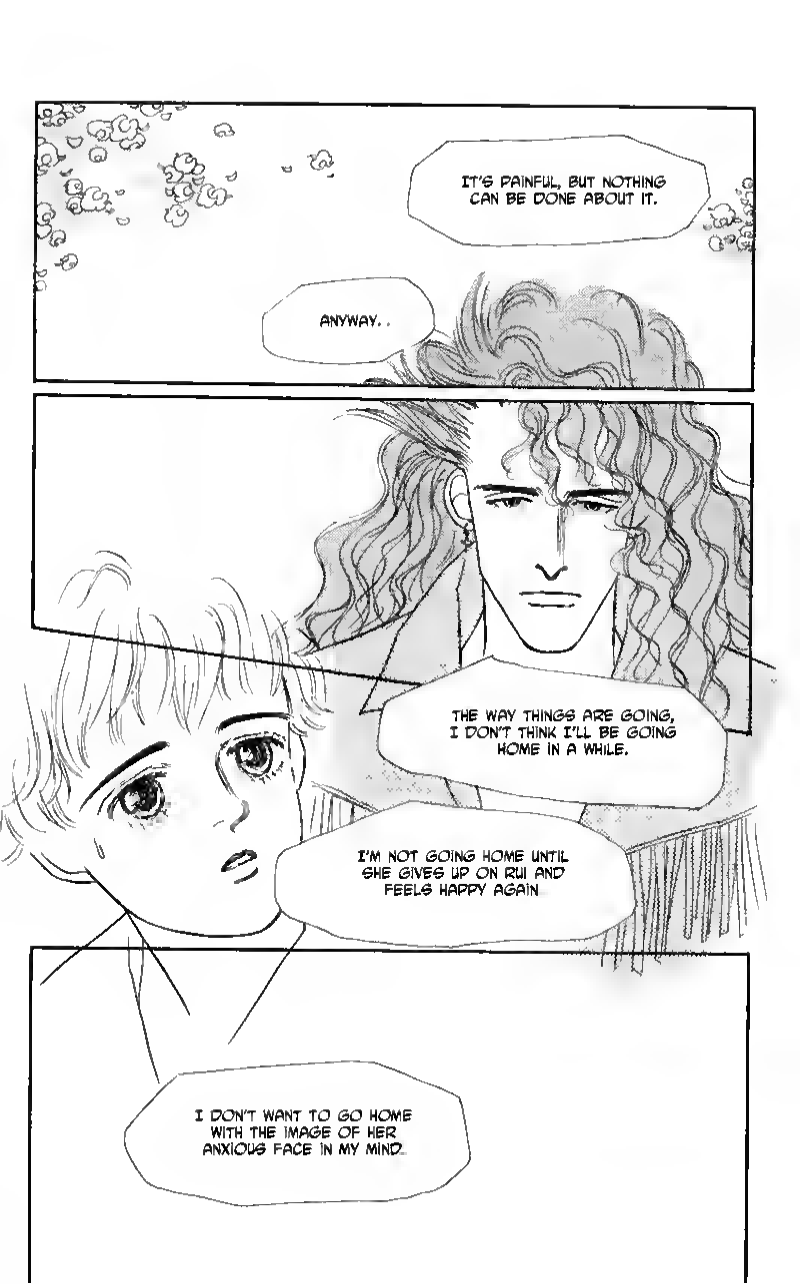
AH, HERE IT IS

I UNDERSTAND NOW SHE'S 'SUFFERING'?
DINA IS?
YES, SHE'S NEVER BEEN REJECTED BY A GUY BEFORE.
TOO FAST. TOO FAST.
I'M SURE SHE'S WONDERING WHY SHE'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH OR SOMETHING.
I MEAN THIS..


WHERE'S THE USUAL MUTUAL UNDER-STANDING THAT BREAKS PAST THE LANGUAGE BARRIER TODAY?!
.....
.....
LET'S FORGET ABOUT THE DIC-TIONARY THING.
JUST TRY TO LISTEN TO WHAT I SAY.

DINA HAD...
ALWAYS BEEN LIKE MY SISTER FROM A YOUNG AGE. WE WENT TO SCHOOL TOGETHER.
BUT THEN, FIVE YEARS AGO, DINA'S FATHER HAD A JOB TRANSFER TO JAPAN. I REALLY WAS LONELY WITHOUT HER
SHE WOULD ONLY COME BACK TO ENGLAND ONCE OR TWICE IN A YEAR. EVERY TIME I SAW HER, SHE HAD GROWN UP A BIT MORE AND HAD BECOME EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL
AND THAT PERSON WILL ALWAYS REGARD THE FRIENDSHIP AS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE OTHER DOES.
IT HAPPENS OFTEN, DOESN'T IT? CHILDHOOD FRIENDS, BUT ONLY ONE IS IN LOVE WITH THE OTHER AS ADULTS.


IT'S PAINFUL, BUT NOTHING CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT.
ANYWAY..
THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING, I DON'T THINK I'LL BE GOING HOME IN A WHILE.
I'M NOT GOING HOME UNTIL SHE GIVES UP ON RUI AND FEELS HAPPY AGAIN.
I DON'T WANT TO GO HOME WITH THE IMAGE OF HER ANXIOUS FACE IN MY MIND.

UNTIL THAT TIME, I'M
NOT GOING HOME.

REGRETTABLY,

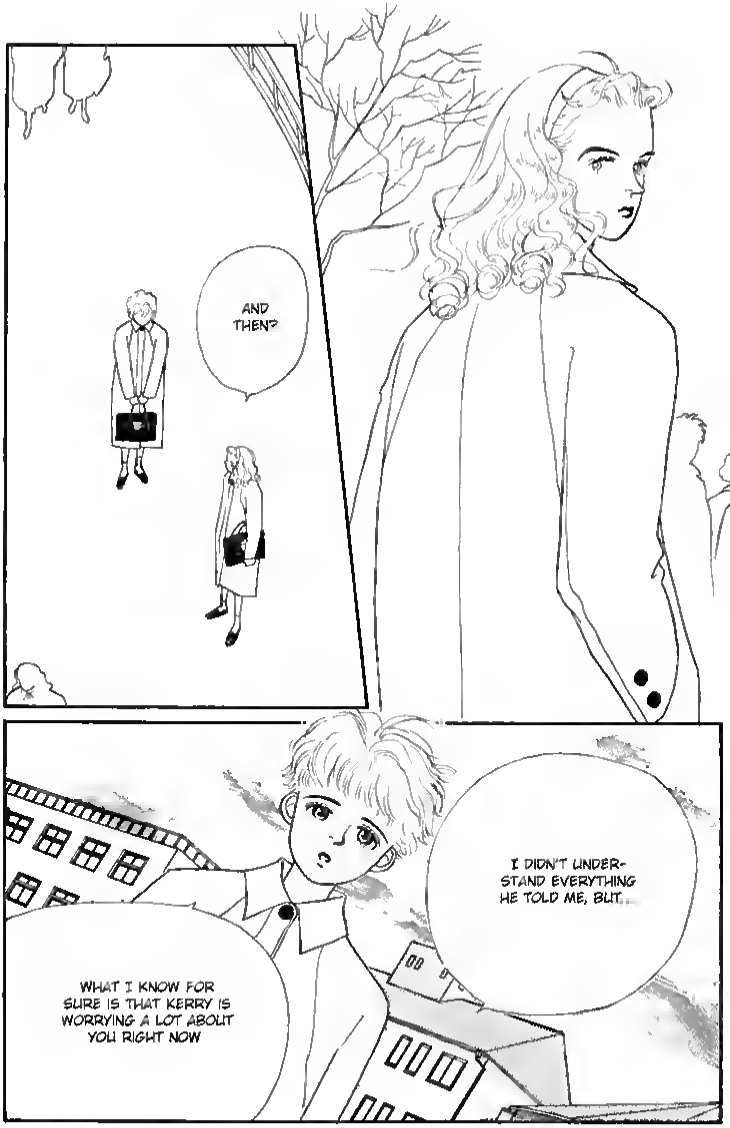
I DIDN'T..

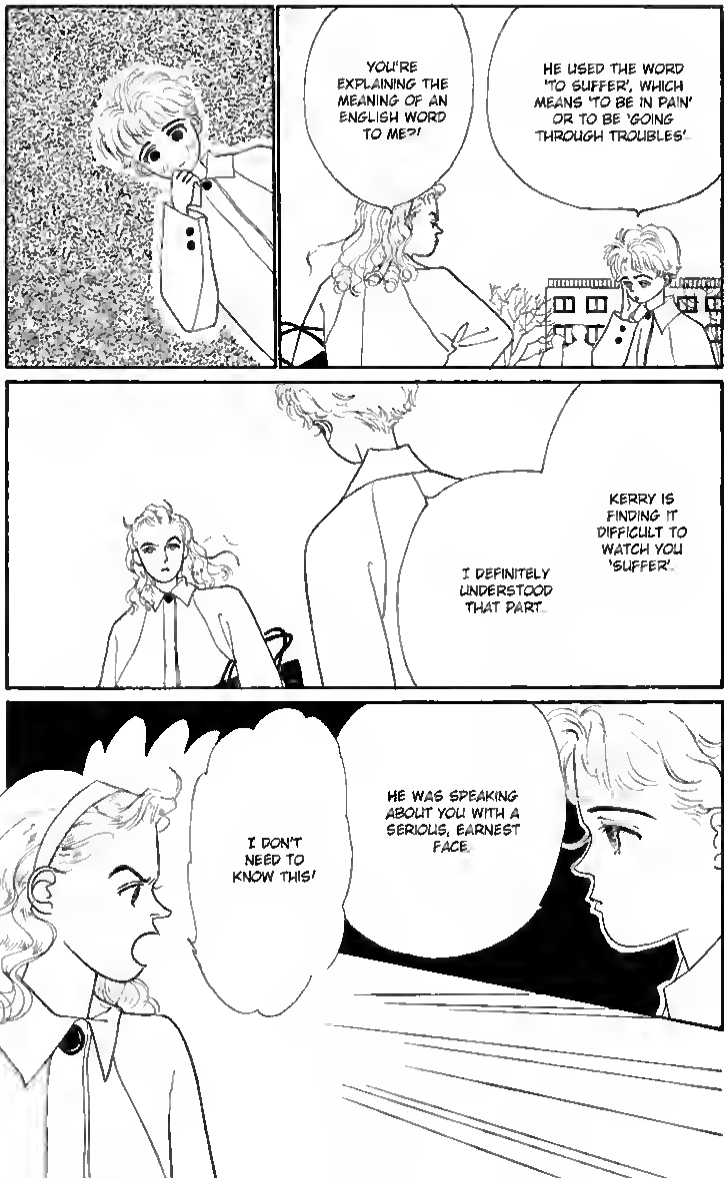
UNDER-
STAND ALL
OF WHAT
HE SAID.
OPENING
HIS HEART
TO ME,
EVEN THOUGH
KERRY WAS
TALKING ABOUT DINA
WITH THAT HEART-
BREAKING FACE...
I DIDN'T
UNDERSTAND.

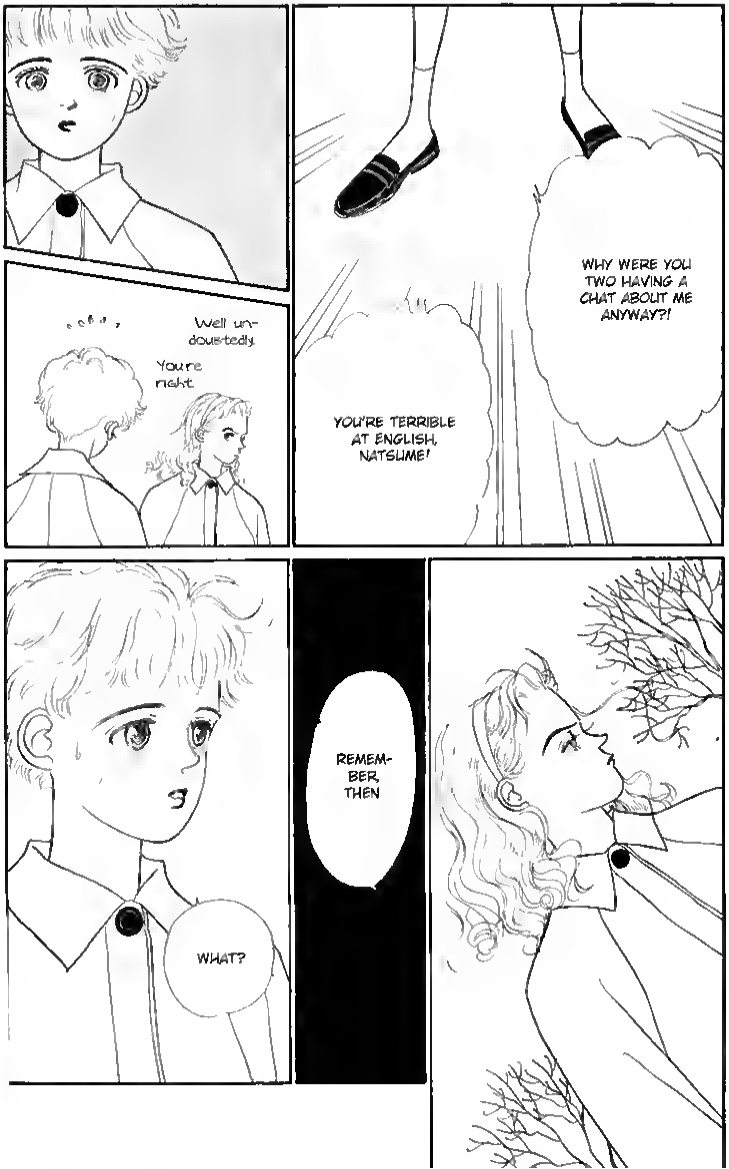
I MIGHT HAVE TO FORGET ABOUT BEING A GUIDE... WAS RUI-KUN RIGHT?
I WAS SO SURE I COULD DO IT BEFORE
THIS HAS KNOCKED MY CONFIDENCE A LOT

I WASN'T ABLE TO UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU WANTED TO TELL ME.

KERRY, I'M SO SORRY...


AND THEN?
I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING HE TOLD ME, BUT...
WHAT I KNOW FOR SURE IS THAT KERRY IS WORRYING A LOT ABOUT YOU RIGHT NOW

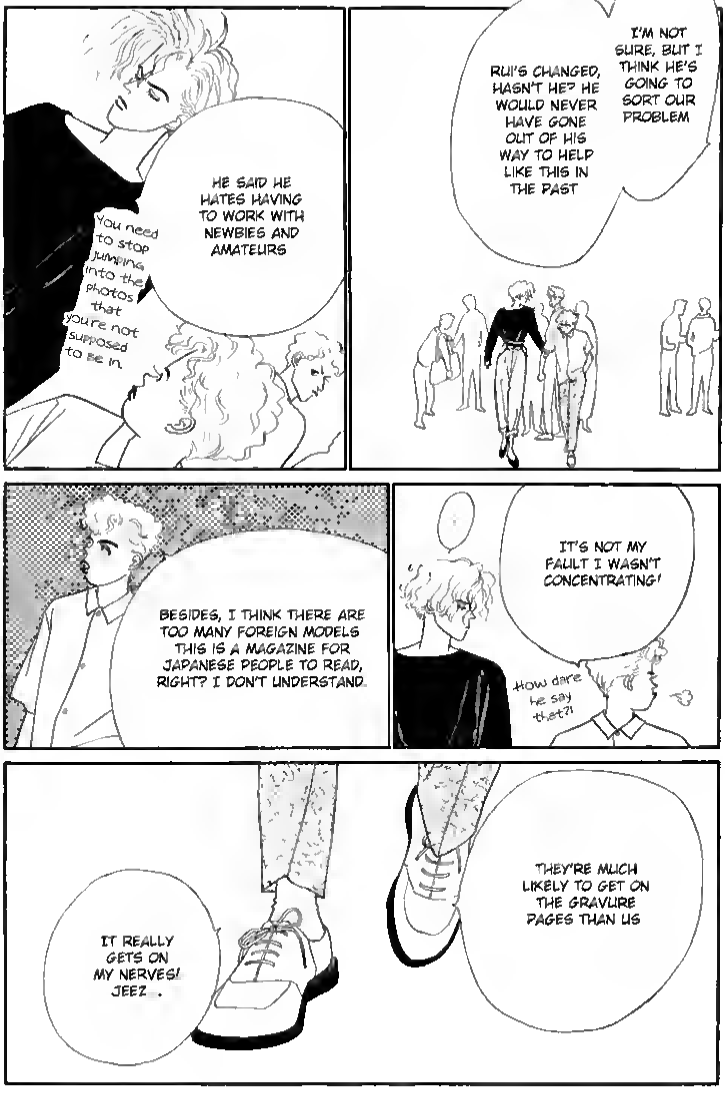

YOU'RE EXPLAINING THE MEANING OF AN ENGLISH WORD TO ME?!
HE USED THE WORD 'TO SUFFER', WHICH MEANS 'TO BE IN PAIN' OR TO BE 'GOING THROUGH TROUBLES'.
KERRY IS FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO WATCH YOU 'SUFFER'.
I DEFINITELY UNDERSTOOD THAT PART.
HE WAS SPEAKING ABOUT YOU WITH A SERIOUS, EARNEST FACE.
I DON'T NEED TO KNOW THIS!


WHY WERE YOU TWO HAVING A CHAT ABOUT ME ANYWAY?!
YOU'RE TERRIBLE AT ENGLISH, NATSUME!
Well undoubtedly
You're right
WHAT?
REMEMBER, THEN

REMEMBER THE WORDS KERRY SAID, RECITE THEM, AND I'LL UNDERSTAND THEM!
THA... THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
WHAT?! YOU'VE BEEN STUDYING ENGLISH FOR SIX WHOLE YEARS!
DON'T YOU REMEMBER SOME OF THE WORDS THAT YOU DIDN'T UNDERSTAND OR SOMETHING? I WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING KERRY SAID ABOUT ME!
.....
.....

You're such a creep!!
What are you talking about?
You always hand me a lemon
AH, I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU HERE, RUI
MAYBE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SORT OUT THE DISPUTES THE FOREIGN MODELS KEEP HAVING WITH OUR STAFF

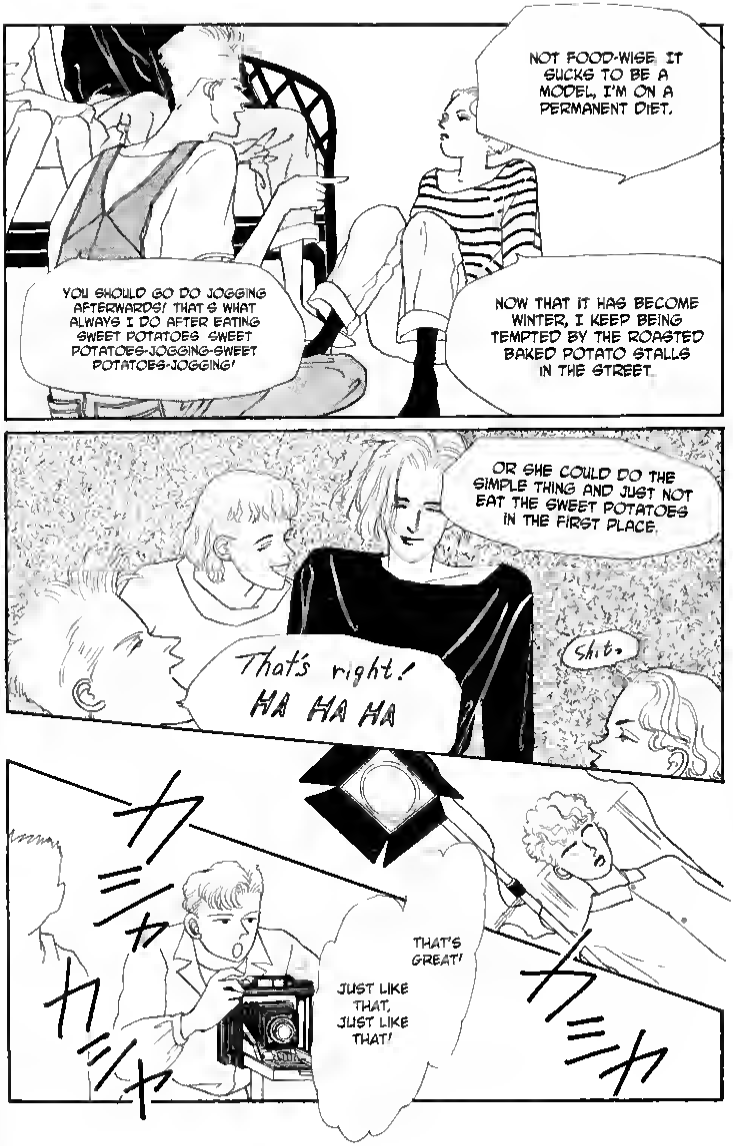
IT'S NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
THEY'RE WREAKING HAVOC
JEEZ!
HUH?
IF YOU'RE GOING TO COME WORK IN JAPAN, THEN IT MAKES SENSE TO LEARN A BIT OF JAPANESE, DOESN'T IT? THINK ABOUT IT, MORON.
YEAH, WHATEVER I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.
Take a leak!
WHAT HAPPENED?


You need to stop jumping into the photos that you're not supposed to be in.
HE SAID HE HATES HAVING TO WORK WITH NEWBIES AND AMATEURS
RUI'S CHANGED, HASN'T HE? HE WOULD NEVER HAVE GONE OUT OF HIS WAY TO HELP LIKE THIS IN THE PAST
I'M NOT SURE, BUT I THINK HE'S GOING TO SORT OUR PROBLEM
BESIDES, I THINK THERE ARE TOO MANY FOREIGN MODELS THIS IS A MAGAZINE FOR JAPANESE PEOPLE TO READ, RIGHT? I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
IT'S NOT MY FAULT I WASN'T CONCENTRATING!
How dare he say that?!
IT REALLY GETS ON MY NERVES! JEEZ...
THEY'RE MUCH LIKELY TO GET ON THE GRAVURE PAGES THAN US

IF IT REALLY BOTHERS YOU THAT MUCH, THEN MAKE SURE YOU LOOK BETTER THAN THEM WHEN YOU POSE.
AND STOP SAYING STUFF LIKE "I DON'T WANT TO WEAR THIS OUTFIT", AND "THIS COLOUR IS REALLY BORING", OKAY?
YOU COMPLAIN TOO MUCH, HONESTLY.
WOW, I FEEL LIKE NOBODY'S ON MY SIDE TODAY.
NATSUME-SAN IS THE ONE PERSON I HAVE WHO WILL THOROUGHLY HEAR ME OUT.

SHE ALWAYS MANAGES TO CHEER ME UP AND I ALWAYS FEEL BETTER AFTER TALKING TO HER.
I HAD A 2-HOUR LONG PHONE CALL WITH HER LAST NIGHT.
I'LL TELL YOU A SECRET. I *LIKE* NATSUME-SAN!
YES, THAT'S WHY I REFRAINED FROM GOING TO MEET HER IN PERSON AND PHONED HER INSTEAD
YOU KNOW SHE'S REALLY BUSY STUDYING FOR HER ENTRANCE EXAMS, RIGHT?
LITTLE JERK...
THIS. .

RUI!
WHY ARE YOU STANDING ON YOUR OWN LOOKING SHOCKED?!
QUICKLY GO TO THE STYLIST!
VIC-TORY
Rui?
What's the matter?
SO, HAS ANYTHING INTERESTING HAPPENED LATELY?


NOT FOOD-WISE. IT SUCKS TO BE A MODEL, I'M ON A PERMANENT DIET.
YOU SHOULD GO DO JOGGING AFTERWARDS! THAT'S WHAT ALWAYS I DO AFTER EATING SWEET POTATOES. SWEET POTATOES-JOGGING-SWEET POTATOES-JOGGING!
NOW THAT IT HAS BECOME WINTER, I KEEP BEING TEMPTED BY THE ROASTED BAKED POTATO STALLS IN THE STREET.
OR SHE COULD DO THE SIMPLE THING AND JUST NOT EAT THE SWEET POTATOES IN THE FIRST PLACE.
That's right! HA HA HA
Shit.
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THAT'S GREAT!
JUST LIKE THAT, JUST LIKE THAT!

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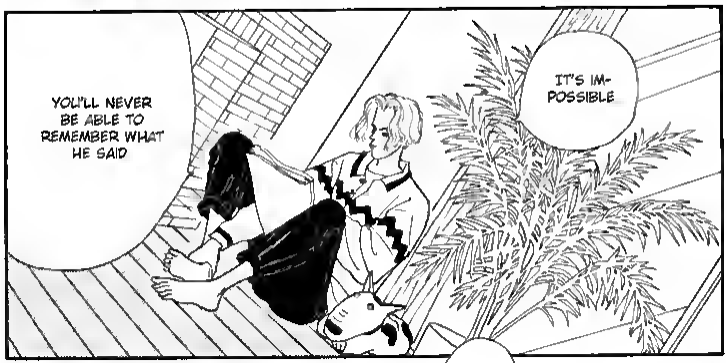
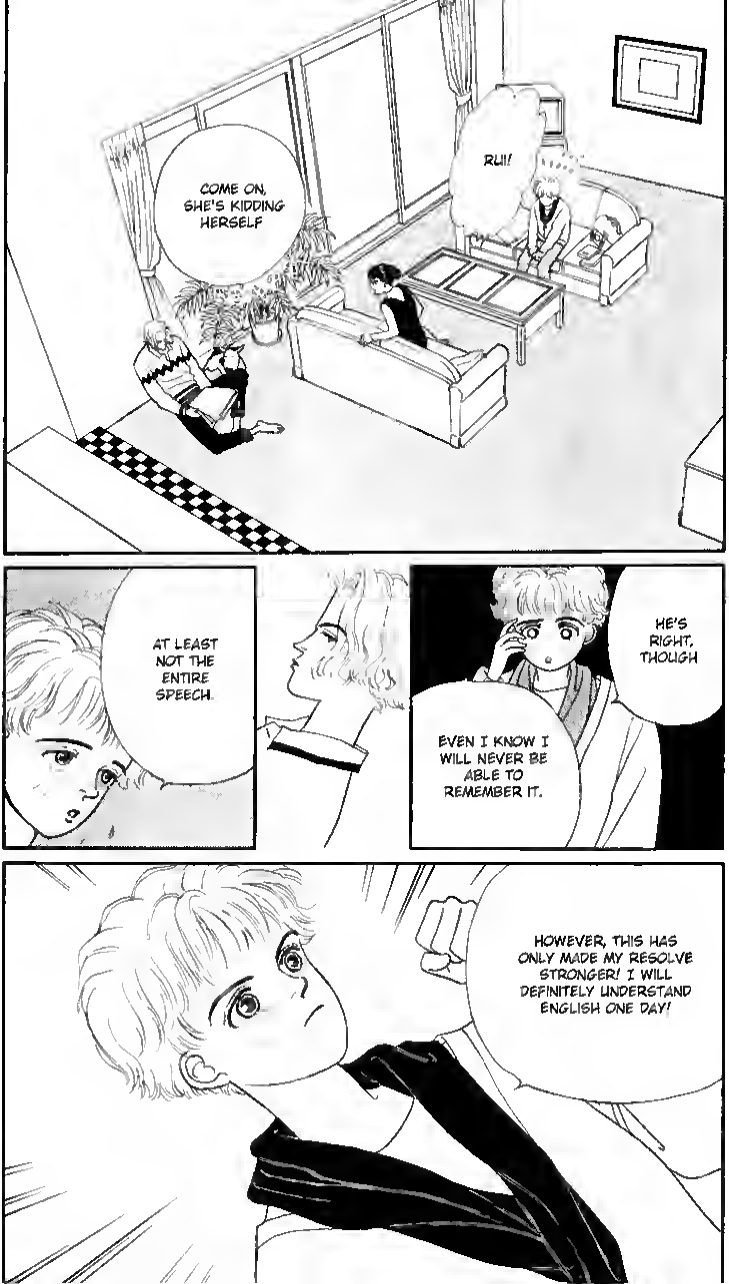

YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO REMEMBER WHAT HE SAID
IT'S IM-POSSIBLE

AHAHA-HAHA!
IT MAKES ME LAUGH JUST IMAGINING YOU AND KERRY HAVING A CONVERSATION IN ENGLISH!


COME ON, SHE'S KIDDING HERSELF
RU!!
AT LEAST NOT THE ENTIRE SPEECH.
HE'S RIGHT, THOUGH
EVEN I KNOW I WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO REMEMBER IT.
HOWEVER, THIS HAS ONLY MADE MY RESOLVE STRONGER! I WILL DEFINITELY UNDERSTAND ENGLISH ONE DAY!

"KERRY" THIS, "KERRY" THAT! I'M SICK OF HEARING ABOUT THIS. JUST LEAVE THINGS AS THEY ARE.
WHO CARES WHAT HAPPENS, ANYWAY?
KERRY WAS OPENING HIS HEART TO ME BACK THEN.
IF HE HAD TOLD DINA INSTEAD, HIS FEELINGS WOULD HAVE BEEN CONVEYED PROPERLY
ANYWAY, YOU'VE HAD QUITE A FEW GOOD-LOOKING GUYS POURING THEIR HEARTS OUT TO YOU, HAVEN'T YOU?
THAT MAKITA BRAT TOLD ME YOU WERE ON THE PHONE WITH HIM FOR TWO HOURS. ARE YOU JUST DESPERATE FOR A BOYFRIEND, OR...
RUI!!
UGH!

Y... YOU'RE WRONG, RUI-KUN THAT'S NOT THE REASON I TALK TO MAKITA-KUN.
WHY ELSE COULD IT BE?! YOU SAID YOURSELF THAT YOU LIKE HIM! BIT OLD FOR HIM, AREN'T YOU, YOU CREEPY OLD WITCH!!
TALKING WITH ME HELPS HIM VENT HIS WORRIES!
THERE ARE LOTS OF DIFFICULT THINGS ABOUT THE MODELLING WORLD, RUI-KUN! YOU KNOW THAT MORE THAN ANYONE!
MORE IMPORTANTLY, MAKITA-KUN HAS DREAMS, LIKE ME

WHEN I TOLD YOU ABOUT MY DREAM,
YOU SAID IT WAS STUPID AND LAUGHED AT ME.
UGH.

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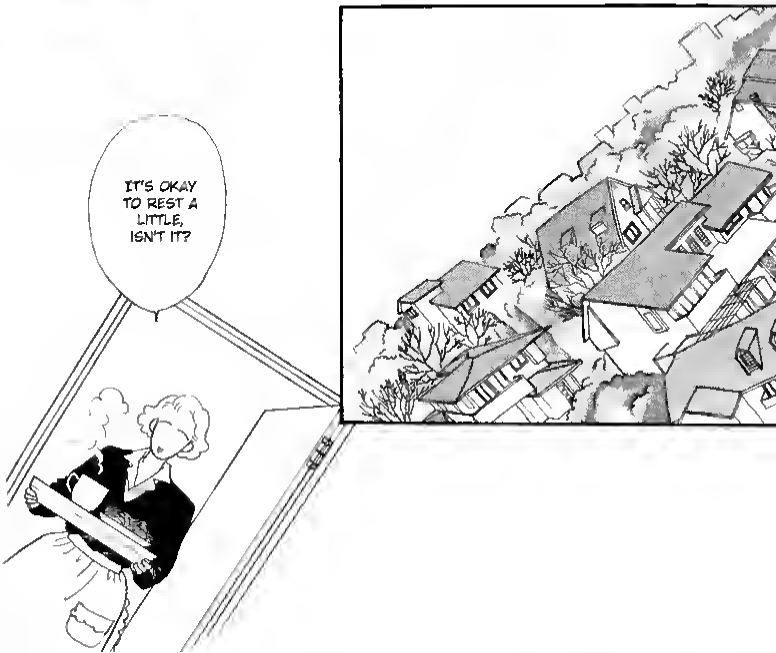
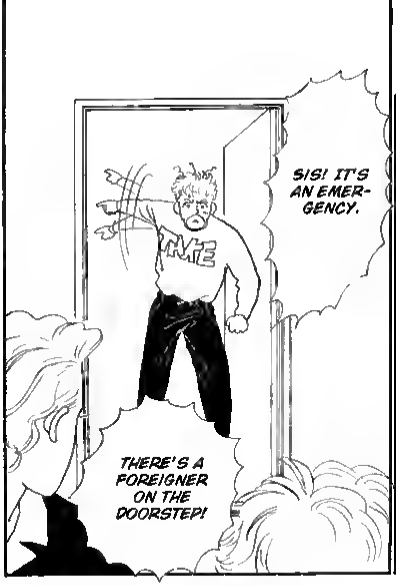
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?!
A VERY SILLY BOY.
Even Pi-Helper is judging him.

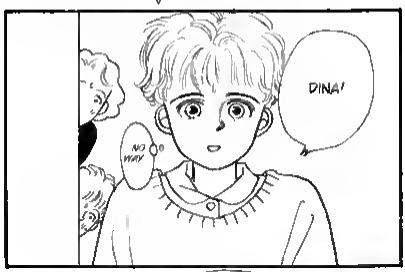
!!!


IT'S OKAY TO REST A LITTLE, ISN'T IT?

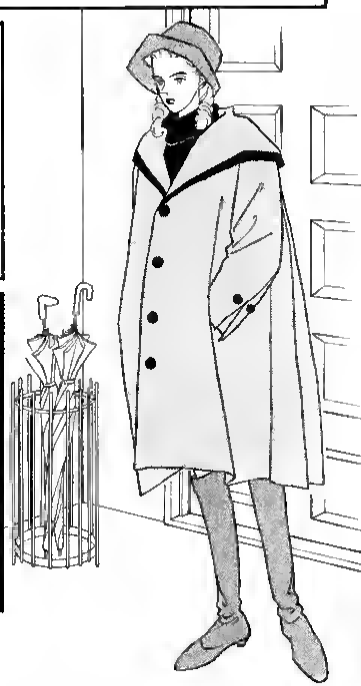
I WON'T BE ABLE TO REST. THERE'S TOO MUCH GOING ON IN MY HEAD—
DON'T BE SILLY
YOU'VE BEEN DOING NOTHING BUT STUDY THIS HOLIDAY. FROM DOING PRACTICE PAPERS TO GOING TO SEMINARS... I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND—
EVER SINCE THE ENTRANCE EXAM REVISION STARTED YOU'VE HAD THIS 'DEAD' LOOK IN YOUR EYES
WHY NOT?! I PROMISED ALL THE RELATIVES THAT THE MODEL 'YAMABE RUI' WOULD BE HERE!
WELL, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT!
NO WAY
MAYBE YOU COULD HAVE A REST AROUND CHRISTMAS. I KNOW, YOU COULD INVITE RUI-KUN ROUND!

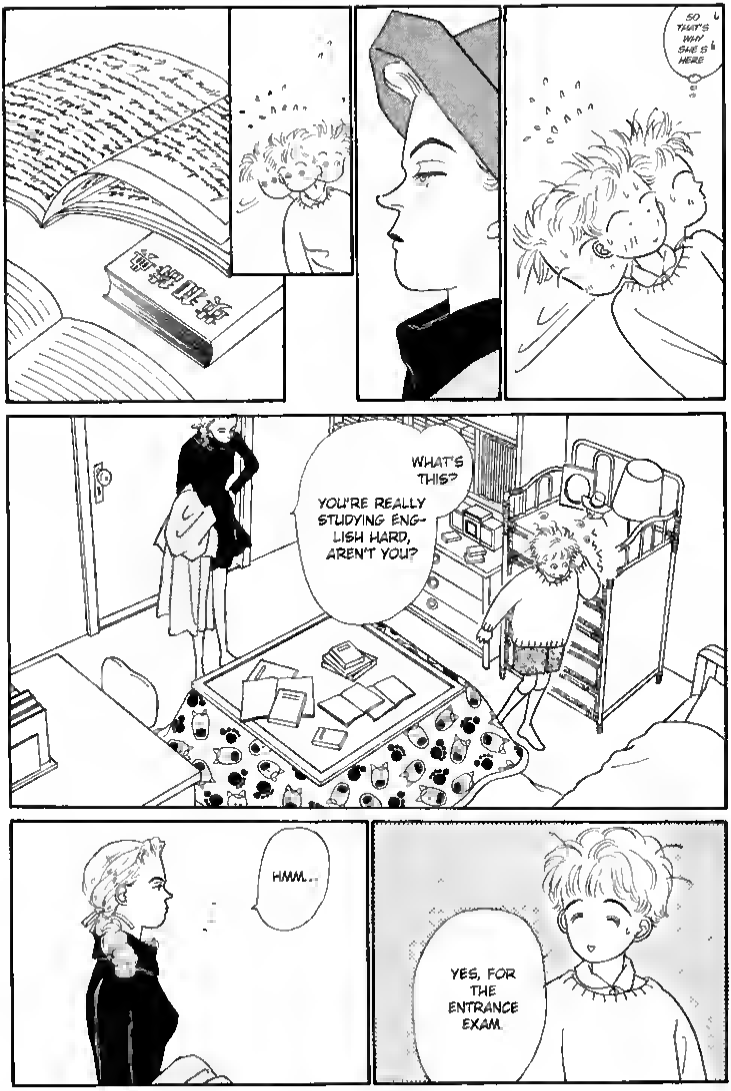

SIS! IT'S AN EMERGENCY.
THERE'S A FOREIGNER ON THE DOORSTEP!

BUT THEY ALL WANT TO MEET HIM AFTER WATCHING THE TV SPECIAL THAT TIME!
THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID HE'S TOO BUSY OR SOMETHING!


DINA!
NO WAY

SO? HAVE YOU REMEMBERED YET?

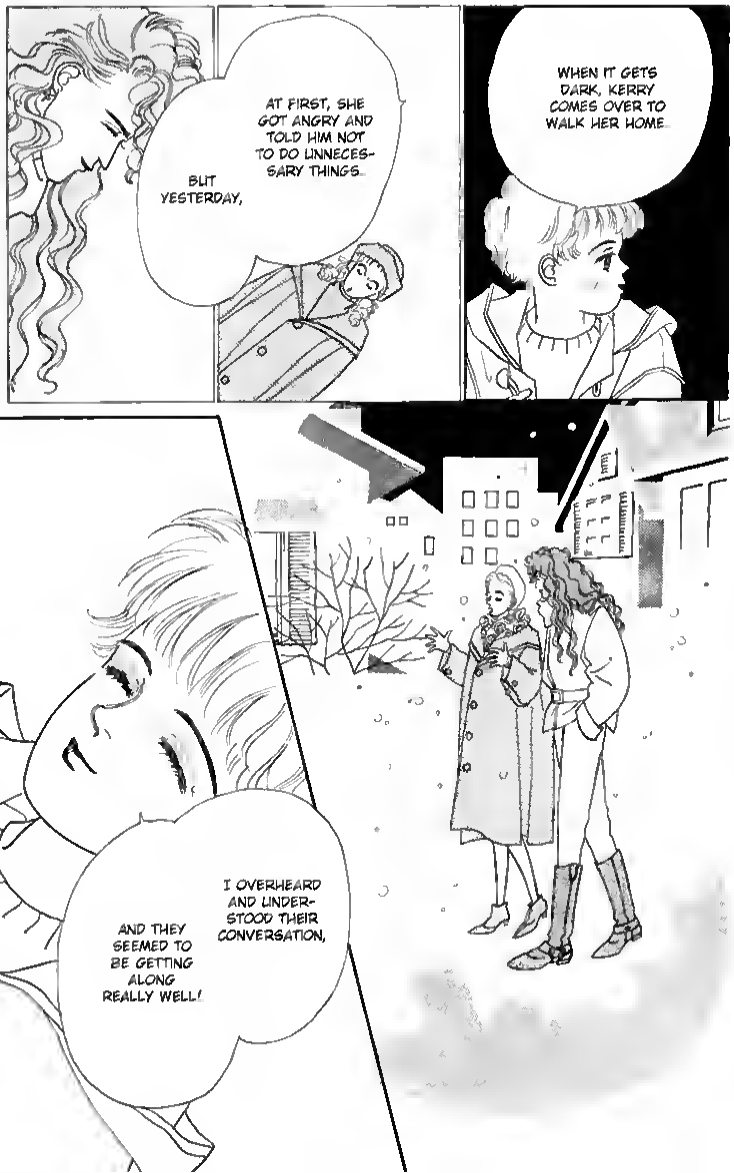



SO THAT'S WHY SHE IS HERE
WHAT'S THIS?
YOU'RE REALLY STUDYING ENGLISH HARD, AREN'T YOU?
HMM...
YES, FOR THE ENTRANCE EXAM.

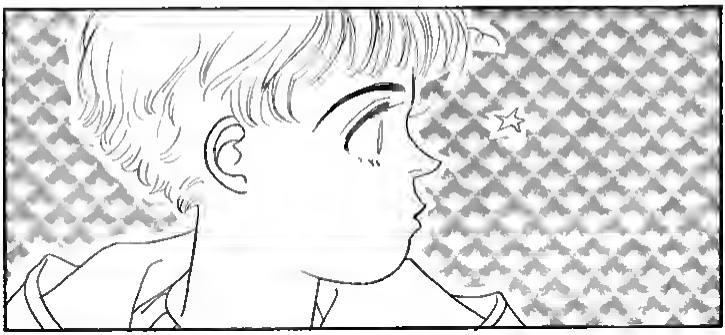
DINA, I'M REALLY SORRY I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT KERRY TOLD ME.
THAT'S WRONG.
OH. . THANK YOU.
THIS BIT'S WRONG, TOO
YOU USED THE WORD 'TO', WHEN YOU MEAN 'WITH'.
HUH?
.....

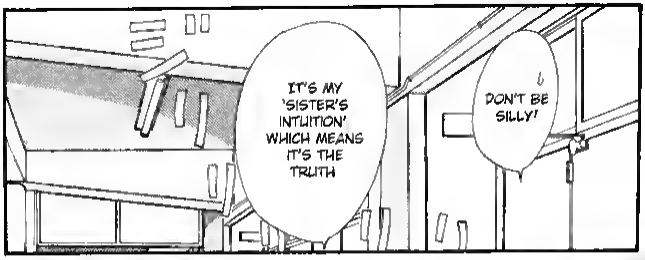
EWW! THIS IS THE WORST TRANSLATION I'VE EVER SEEN!
IT'S SO AWKWARD AND DIRECT. EVEN I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT.
DI... DINA!
N... NO WONDER YOU CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT KERRY SAID! YOUR ENGLISH IS EVEN WORSE THAN I'D IMAGINED!
HURRY UP AND CORRECT THAT MISTAKE. THERE ARE PLENTY MORE HERE THAT I NEED TO TELL YOU ABOUT.
.....
Is actually in a good mood today.

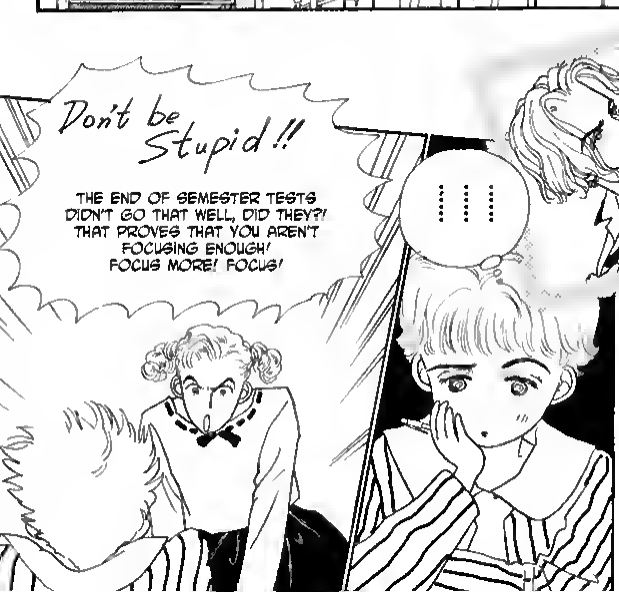
DINA'S BEING YOUR ENGLISH TUTOR?!
YEAH
SHE SAID SHE'S DOING IT IN THE HOPE THAT IF I GET BETTER AT ENGLISH, I'LL BE ABLE TO REMEMBER WHAT KERRY TOLD ME
THAT'S JUST LIKE HER
OR MAYBE...
THAT'S JUST AN EXCUSE, AND THE REAL REASON IS NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT


BUT YESTERDAY,
AT FIRST, SHE GOT ANGRY AND TOLD HIM NOT TO DO UNNECESSARY THINGS...
WHEN IT GETS DARK, KERRY COMES OVER TO WALK HER HOME...
I OVERHEARD AND UNDERSTOOD THEIR CONVERSATION,
AND THEY SEEMED TO BE GETTING ALONG REALLY WELL!

SO... HOW'S RUI-KUN DOING?
.....
YOU KNOW, WHEN I LOOK AT HIM THESE DAYS, I FEEL MORE LIKE HE'S MY LITTLE BROTHER
A NEW SIMILARITY IS HOW JEALOUS WE CAN BECOME
AFTER A FEW DAYS OF REST, HE WENT BACK TO WORK. HE'S IN KANAZAWA RIGHT NOW
HE DOESN'T LIKE HOW NICELY THE LIKES OF MAKITA-KUN AND KERRY TREAT YOU. BECAUSE HE'S JEALOUS OF THEM




IT'S MY 'SISTER'S INTUITION' WHICH MEANS IT'S THE TRUTH
DON'T BE SILLY!


Don't be Stupid!!
THE END OF SEMESTER TESTS DIDN'T GO THAT WELL, DID THEY?! THAT PROVES THAT YOU AREN'T FOCUSING ENOUGH! FOCUS MORE! FOCUS!
.....

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Speak in English.!!
I GET IT NOW! IN THIS CASE IT WOULD TAKE THE PREPOSITION 'AT'!
A B C
I UNDER STAND NOW.
D E F G
Sorry
Smile

I THINK...
EVERY TIME I SEE HIM, I'M ABLE TO UNDERSTAND KERRY MORE THAN THE LAST TIME
HOW DID IT GO? DINA'S A GREAT TEACHER, ISN'T SHE?
YES, I'M SO, SO GRATEFUL FOR HER HELP!
.....
JAPANESE...
JAPANESE HISTORY..
BUT AFTER SHE LEAVES, ALL MY OTHER SUBJECTS ARE WAITING FOR ME
KANAZAWA, HUH?
I'M BECOMING AN EXCUSE FOR MINIATURE DATES

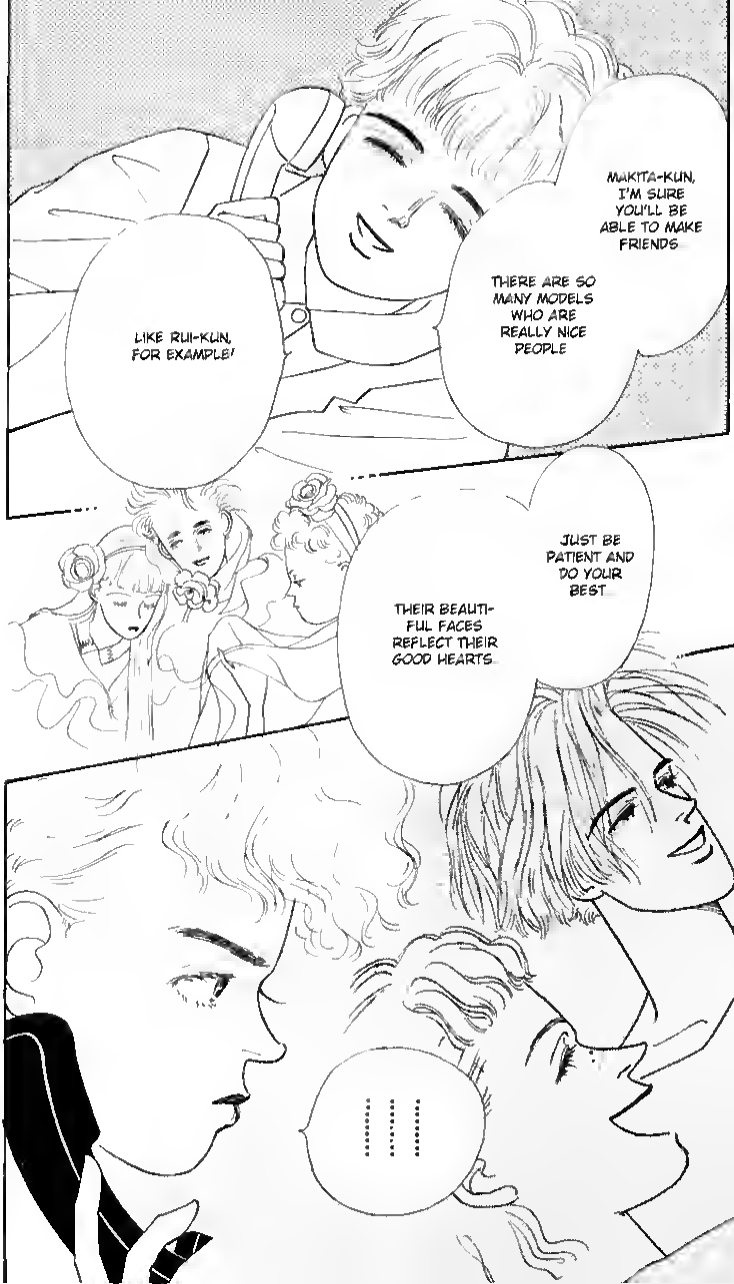
IT MUST HAVE BEEN SNOWING THERE.
RUI!
SCHOOL'S OUT THIS TIME OF YEAR, RIGHT?
DUDE, WE'RE ALL OFF TO KYOTO. WANNA COME WITH US?

AWW, HOW COME?
WE'RE GOING TO EAT SOME DELICIOUS FOOD TONIGHT, SINCE IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE
SORRY, I'M NOT COMING
ME TOO, BUT AT HOME

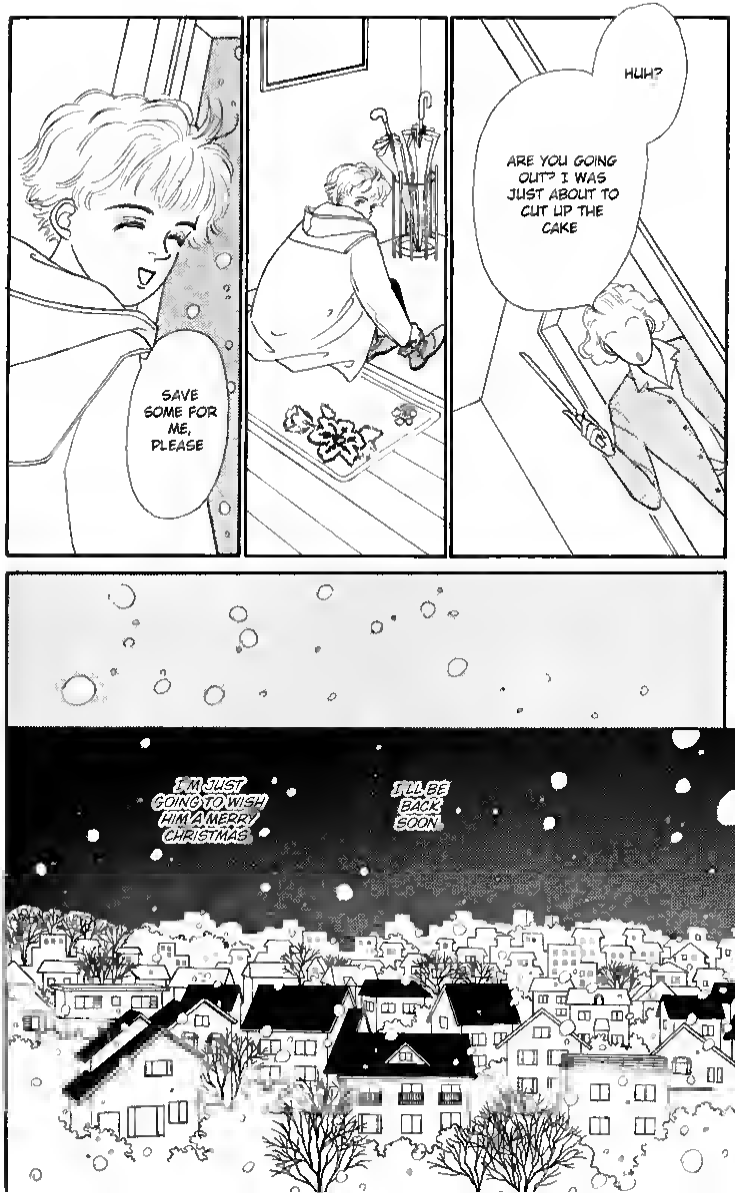
THE FOREIGN MODELS IGNORE ME COMPLETELY
AND RUI-SAN IS ALWAYS WITH THEM
I DON'T THINK HE LIKES ME VERY MUCH.
I'M ALWAYS THE OUTSIDER THERE.
MAYBE HE TOLD THE OTHER MODELS NOT TO TALK TO ME

RUI-KUN ISN'T THE TYPE OF PERSON TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

YOU'RE PROBABLY JUST MISUNDERSTANDING THE FOREIGNER'S ACTIONS BECAUSE YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY'RE SAYING.
HE WOULDN'T SNEAK AROUND AND TALK ABOUT YOU BEHIND YOUR BACK LIKE THAT.
IF HE DIDN'T LIKE YOU, HE WOULD TELL YOU FRANKLY TO YOUR FACE
WHY DON'T YOU STUDY ENGLISH A LITTLE, TOO?
I HAVE AN EXTREMELY STRICT HOME TUTOR TEACHING ME ENGLISH RIGHT NOW. I'M LEARNING FAST!
FOR EXAMPLE, YOU COULD TRY SPEAKING ENGLISH WITH A MEMBER OF STAFF WHO UNDERSTANDS JAPANESE AS WELL!


MAKITA-KUN, I'M SURE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE FRIENDS
THERE ARE SO MANY MODELS WHO ARE REALLY NICE PEOPLE
LIKE RUI-KUN, FOR EXAMPLE!
JUST BE PATIENT AND DO YOUR BEST
THEIR BEAUTIFUL FACES REFLECT THEIR GOOD HEARTS
.....

DON'T GIVE UP! I KNOW YOU'LL BECOME A TOP MODEL ONE DAY
SO PLEASE TRY TO BE OPTIMISTIC


SAVE SOME FOR ME, PLEASE
HUH?
ARE YOU GOING OUT? I WAS JUST ABOUT TO CUT UP THE CAKE
I'M JUST GOING TO WISH HIM A MERRY CHRISTMAS
I'LL BE BACK SOON

'SMILE' AND 'MERRY CHRISTMAS'!
THE SPELLING IS
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MAYBE HE'LL SMILE AND SAY "MERRY CHRISTMAS" BACK!
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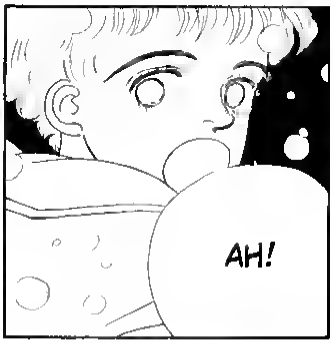
AH!

JUST RUN BY AND IGNORE ME THEN! BITCH!

LOOKS LIKE SHE WASN'T IGNORING ME
SHE DIDN'T NOTICE ME IN THE FIRST PLACE. TYPICAL
RUI-KUN!
YOU SURPRISED ME!

AH, I DIDN'T REALLY HAVE A REASON...
I WAS JUST GOING TO YOUR HOUSE!
I DIDN'T EXPECT TO MEET HIM HERE
WHY?
MERRY CHRISTMAS! I WANTED TO WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AHH, THIS IS NOT THE WAY I WAS PLANNING TO SAY IT...

UMM, I'M SORRY. WERE YOU EXPECTING A CARD OR A PRESENT?
NO, I WASN'T

RUI-KUN?

EVER SINCE..
WE FIRST MET...
?
YOU'VE ALWAYS FORGIVEN ME FOR WHATEVER I DID OR SAID, EVEN THOUGH I NEVER APOLOGIZED. I ONLY REALIZED THAT RECENTLY.
AND THEN, YOU...
BEHAVE LIKE IT NEVER HAPPENED, NO MATTER HOW NASTY I WAS TO YOU.

I CAN FORGIVE YOU. THAT EASILY..
BECAUSE I LOVE YOU, RUI-KUN. THAT'S HOW
I REALIZED RECENTLY THAT I...
LOVE YOU, TOO
IN FACT, I'M PRETTY ANNOYED AT MYSELF FOR ONLY JUST NOTICING...

YOU'VE ALWAYS TAKEN CARE OF ME, MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE EVER HAS
AND YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN NICE TO ME, DESPITE HOW NASTY I'VE ALWAYS BEEN TO YOU
AND EVERYONE ELSE
A SISTER'S INTUITION

I MEAN.
I'M THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO'S INCAPABLE OF SHOWING KINDNESS TO OTHERS.

HOW COME YOU STILL LOVE ME DESPITE THAT? ARE YOU STUPID OR SOMETHING? I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU
ARE YOU EVEN LISTEN-ING?!
おい

"IT'S MY 'SISTER'S INTUITION', WHICH MEANS IT'S THE TRUTH."